

DNA ENCODING A NOVEL PROST 03 POLYPEPTIDE

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/200,065, filed April 27, 2000, which is incorporated herein in full by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates, in part, to newly identified polynucleotides and polypeptides; variants and derivatives of the polynucleotides and polypeptides; methods of making the polynucleotides and polypeptides, and their variants and derivatives; antibodies directed toward the polypeptides, their variants and derivatives; and uses of the polynucleotides, polypeptides, variants, derivatives and antibodies. In particular, in these and in other regards, the invention relates to novel human polypeptides (designated PROST 03) which exhibit an expression pattern showing a high specificity toward prostate tissues, polynucleotides which encode these polypeptides, antibodies directed toward these polypeptides, and antisense polynucleotides that block PROST 03 expression.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Prostate cancer is a frequently occurring disease in man, in that it is found in about one third of men over the age of 45. There is evidence for both genetic and environmental causes, with the majority of cases probably being the result of a combination of both factors. Studies of familial cancer have suggested that genetic predisposition plays a role in about 5-10% of all prostate cancers, and in about 45% of cases in men younger than 55.

There is evidence that prostate cancer develops as a multi-step disease, with one of the precursor lesions being prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN). Early stages of the disease are androgen dependent, while later stages are hormone independent. A proliferative disorder of the prostate known as benign prostatic hyperplasia is often detected clinically but is probably not a stage in the development of cancer. It is, however, frequently associated with prostate cancer. Cancers in the prostate are often multifocal, generally slow growing, and heterogeneous. Late stage cancers frequently metastasize to the lymph nodes and to the bone.

Prostate cancer is usually diagnosed by physical examination and by serum levels of prostate specific antigen (PSA). Radical prostatectomy is the treatment of choice for localized disease. Advanced metastatic disease is treated currently by androgen ablation induced by orchiectomy or treatment with GnRH (gonadotrophin releasing hormone), and by anti-androgen therapy. However, advanced disease almost invariably becomes hormone resistant and there is no cure for progressive disease. Moreover, there are serious side effects associated with both radical prostatectomy and androgen ablation therapy. These include a high risk of incontinence and impotence associated with

radical prostatectomy and bone fractures and osteoporosis associated with androgen ablation therapy.

There is, therefore, a considerable need for new therapeutic approaches for both early and late stage prostate cancer. There is also a significant need for new diagnostic agents, in particular agents that can discriminate stages of the disease, as this significantly influences the treatment options. For example, if disease has progressed beyond the prostate and has metastasized to the lymph nodes, radical prostatectomy is not undertaken as it has no effect on progression, but may have significant unwanted side effects. An agent that could detect metastasis, *in vivo*, would have considerable value. Proteins that, in their expression pattern, show specificity for prostate tissues, should be useful for both metastatic detection as well as targeting of therapeutic agents.

Changes in the expression of specific proteins have been demonstrated in prostate cancer including abnormal p53 expression in late stage prostate cancer, reduced levels of TGF- β receptors, reduced levels of E-cadherin, C-Cam (a cell adhesion molecule), and several integrins. The expression of the oncogene bcl-2 is strikingly elevated in late stage androgen independent tumors, and prognosis for patients expression bcl-2 at elevated levels is relatively poor. While the previously mentioned changes in gene expression are well documented, no changes in expression have been identified that have been demonstrated to be causative for the disease. It would, therefore, be useful to identify new proteins whose expression is linked to the presence or development of prostate tumors, since they could serve as molecular targets for prostate cancer diagnosis and therapy.

Transport systems allow the uptake of essential nutrients and ions, excretion of end products of metabolism, and communication between cells and the environment (Mitchel, *Adv. Enzymol.* 29:33-87, 1963). Primary active transporters drive solute accumulation or extrusion of a variety of substances by using ATP hydrolysis, photon absorption, electron flow, substrate decarboxylation, or methyl transfer (Mitchel, *Fed. Proc.* 26:1370-1379, 1967). Over 100 families of transporters have been classified, with two of them occurring ubiquitously in all classifications of living organisms. One of these, the major facilitator superfamily (MFS) consists of membrane transport proteins involved in the symport, antiport or uniport of various substances (Griffith et al., *Curr. Opin. Cell Biol.* 4:684-695, 1992; Marger et al., *Trends Biochem. Sci.* 18:13-21, 1993). Within the MFS, the distinct families of membrane transport proteins are evolutionarily related to each other (Henderson, *Bioenerg. Biomembr.* 22:525-569, 1990). The MFS members are currently classified into 17 (18) distinct families representing 300 MFS proteins. The proteins are involved in sugar uptake, drug resistance, uptake of Krebs-cycle intermediates, phosphate ester/phosphate antiport, and oligosaccharide uptake (Henderson et al., *Philos. Trans. Royal Soc. London Ser.B* 326:391-410, 1990). At a secondary structure level, hydropathy considerations have suggested that with the exception of three, the families are all characterized by a 12 transmembrane-spanner (TMS) protein topology. In three families, two additional transmembrane-spanners are found (Paulsen et al., *Microbio. Rev.* 60: 575-608, 1996). It is proposed that the transmembrane-spanners traverse the plasma membrane in an alpha-helical conformation (Goswitz and Brooker, *Protein Science* 4:534-537, 1995). A well conserved MFS specific motif between TMS2 and TMS3 and the related but less well conserved motif between TMS8 and TMS9 is characteristic of

virtually all MFS family members and seems to be of functional significance (Pao et al., *Microbiol. Molec. Biol. Rev.* 62 (1):1-34, 1998). It has been hypothesized that C-terminal regions of MFS transporters are involved primarily in determining the substrate specificities of the proteins within the MFS and the N-terminal regions are involved primarily in the energization of transport (Griffith et al., *Curr. Opin. Cell. Biol.*, 4: 684-695, 1992; Rouch et al., *Mol. Microbiol.*, 4:2051-2062, 1990). Family specific motifs have been identified within members of the MFS, providing a tool to place newly identified MFS proteins into their appropriate family group (Paulsen et al, *Gene* 124:1-11, 1993).

The sugar porter (SP) family represents the largest MFS family consisting of 133 sequenced members derived from bacteria, archaea, eukaryotic protists, fungi, animals and plants. The proteins have 12 TMSs and are very diverse in sequence and function. Under physiological conditions they function either by uniport or by H⁺ symport. The symporters function in energized cells with inwardly directed polarity. It has been demonstrated that members of the sugar porter family can catalyze solute:solute antiport when substrates are present on both sides of the membrane. Substrates of the sugar porter family include glucose in bacteria, hexoses in plants, and sugars as well as organic cations and neurotransmitters in animals. The proteins exhibit a size range of 404-818 amino acid residues. The hydrophilic regions of the eukaryotic proteins may play a role in regulation or in cytoskeletal attachment and they are frequently subject to phosphorylation by ATP-dependant protein kinases.

Proteins of the sugar porter family are often involved in drug transport and changes in these proteins may play a role in the emergence of drug resistance (Lewis, *Trends Biochem.Sci.* 19: 119-123, 1994). It is possible that increased levels of transport proteins may lead to rapid export of accumulated drug, resulting in less effective chemotherapy. Reduction in the levels of such a protein or reduction in its activity might prove important to the maintenance of effective therapeutic drug levels within cells.

These data suggest that transporter proteins may be good candidates for use in diagnosis of cancer and therapeutic intervention. The novel PROST 03 polypeptide shows similarity to the sugar porter family of membrane transport proteins and may, therefore, have therapeutic and diagnostic utility for cancer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a polynucleotide sequence which uniquely encodes a novel protein designated herein as PROST 03. The PROST 03 polypeptide is preferentially expressed in prostate tissues, both tumor and normal, and in prostatic carcinoma metastatic to bone and lymph node. In addition, the PROST 03 polypeptide shows similarity to a sucrose/H⁺ symporter protein, DcSUT2 (Genbank o65803.sp_plant), which suggests it is a cell-surface protein. It contains the transmembrane-spanner protein topology common to members of the MFS family of membrane transport proteins. The

polynucleotide sequence, designated herein as *prost 03*, and described herein in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), encodes the amino acid sequence for PROST 03, which is shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2). The prostate-specific nature of the expression of PROST 03 and its cell-surface location suggest that PROST 03 could, therefore, both provide a novel target for diagnostic agents to detect metastatic prostate cancer as well as provide a potential target for therapeutic intervention through the use of therapeutic agents linked to antibodies directed at the PROST 03 polypeptide.

It is an object of the present invention to provide polypeptides, *inter alia*, that have been identified as novel proteins which are preferentially expressed in prostate tissues. The polypeptides also appear to possess similarity to the sugar porter family of membrane transport proteins, as shown by comparison of the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and the known amino acid sequence of another sugar porter protein, DcSUT2.

It is a further object of the invention, moreover, to provide polynucleotides that encode such polypeptides, particularly polynucleotides that encode the polypeptide designated herein as PROST 03.

In accordance with this aspect of the invention there are provided isolated polynucleotides encoding PROST 03, including mRNAs, cDNAs, and, in further embodiments of this aspect of the invention, biologically, diagnostically, clinically or therapeutically useful variants, analogs or derivatives thereof, or fragments thereof, including fragments of the variants, analogs and derivatives.

Among the particularly preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention are naturally occurring allelic variants of polynucleotides that encode variants of the polypeptide designated herein as PROST 03.

In accordance with this aspect of the invention there are provided novel polypeptides of human origin referred to herein as PROST 03 as well as biologically, diagnostically or therapeutically useful fragments, variants and derivatives thereof, variants and derivatives of the fragments, and analogs of the foregoing.

Among the particularly preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention are variants of PROST 03 encoded by naturally occurring allelic variants of the *prost 03* polynucleotide.

It is another object of the invention to provide a method of producing the aforementioned polypeptides, polypeptide fragments, variants and derivatives, fragments of the variants and derivatives, and analogs of the foregoing. In a preferred embodiment of this aspect of the invention there are provided methods of producing the aforementioned PROST 03 polypeptides comprising culturing host cells having expressibly incorporated therein an exogenously-derived PROST 03-encoding polynucleotide under conditions for expression of human PROST 03 in the host.

In accordance with another object of the invention there are provided products, compositions, processes and methods that utilize the aforementioned polypeptides and polynucleotides for *inter alia* research, biological, clinical and therapeutic purposes.

In accordance with certain preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention, there are provided products, compositions and methods, *inter alia*, for assessing PROST 03 expression in cells by determining PROST 03 polypeptides or PROST 03-encoding mRNA and assaying genetic variation and

aberrations, such as defects or mutations, in genomic sequences containing *prost 03*.

In accordance with certain preferred embodiments of this and other aspects of the invention there are provided probes that hybridize to *prost 03* polynucleotide sequences.

It is a further object of the invention to provide antibodies that are highly selective for PROST 03 polypeptides, or fragments thereof, and which may be employed in a method for diagnosis and/or detection of PROST 03 expression, which may be associated with prostate cancer. In accordance with certain preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention, antibodies are labeled in such a way as to produce a detectable signal. Particularly preferred would be an antibody labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, a chromophore or a fluorescer.

In a further aspect of the invention there are provided antibodies that are conjugated to a therapeutic agent for administration to cells *in vitro*, to cells *ex vivo* and to cells *in vivo*, or to a multicellular organism. Particularly preferred in this regard are therapeutic agents that are cytotoxic. In certain preferred embodiments in this regard is administration of such conjugated antibodies to a human patient for treatment of a disease state characterized by PROST 03 activity or expression such as prostate cancer.

In a further aspect of the invention there are therapeutic antibodies that are internalized.

In a further aspect of the invention, peptides and anti-idiotypic antibodies are provided which can be used to stimulate an immune response.

In a further aspect of the invention there are provided ribozymes and polynucleotides complementary to *prost 03* polynucleotides (i.e. antisense polynucleotides) for administration to cells *in vitro*, to cells *ex vivo* and to cells *in vivo*, or to a multicellular organism. Particularly preferred in this regard is administration of antisense molecules to a human patient for treatment of a disease state, such as prostate cancer or benign prostatic hyperplasia.

Other objects, features, advantages and aspects of the present invention will become apparent to those of skill from the following description. It should be understood, however, that the following description and the specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only. Various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the disclosed invention will become readily apparent to those skilled in the art from reading the following description and from reading the other parts of the present disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1: Polynucleotide sequence of *prost 03* (SEQ ID NO: 1), which encodes the biologically or immunologically active form of PROST 03.

FIGURE 2: Deduced amino acid sequence of PROST 03 (SEQ ID NO: 2), with the predicted transmembrane domains underlined. Transmembrane domains were predicted using the MTM transmembrane domain prediction program.

FIGURE 3: Amino acid alignment of PROST 03 and DcSUT2, a sucrose/H⁺ symporter. The PROST 03 sequence is on the bottom. The predicted transmembrane domains for each sequence are underlined.

FIGURE 4: Polynucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of PROST 03.

FIGURE 5: Expression of *prost 03* mRNA in human tissues by Taqman based PCR analysis. RNA from human tissues, both tumor and normal, was isolated by standard techniques. Primers and probe to detect *prost 03* mRNA expression were designed using Perkin Elmer's Primer Express software and synthesized by Synthetic Genetics. *Prost 03* mRNA is found primarily in prostate tissues.

FIGURE 6: Immunohistochemical staining of PROST 03 expression in human prostate tissues. Normal and tumor tissues were examined for PROST 03 expression using histochemical staining. The majority of carcinomas showed positive staining with anti-PROST 03 antibody (see Example 5).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

As used in the specification, examples and appended claims, unless specified to the contrary, the following terms have the meaning indicated.

"PROST 03" refers to the polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2); variants, analogs, derivatives and fragments thereof, and fragments of the variants, analogs and derivatives. The terms "fragment," "derivative" and "analog" when referring to the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) mean a polypeptide which retains essentially the same biological and/or immunological activity as the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

"*prost 03*" refers to the polynucleotide having the sequence set out in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1) and polynucleotides encoding polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of PROST 03 set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2); and to polynucleotides encoding PROST 03 variants, analogs, derivatives and fragments, and fragments of the variants, analogs and derivatives. *Prost 03* also refers to such polynucleotides composed of RNA as well as to polynucleotides which are the complement of polynucleotides which encode the polypeptide sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

"Polynucleotide(s)" generally refers to any polyribonucleotide or polydeoxiribonucleotide, which may be unmodified RNA or DNA or modified RNA or DNA. Thus, for instance, polynucleotides as used herein refers to, among others, single- and double-stranded DNA, DNA that is a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, single- and double-stranded RNA, and RNA that is mixture of single- and double-stranded regions, hybrid molecules comprising DNA and RNA that may be single-stranded or,

more typically, double-stranded or a mixture of single- and double-stranded regions. In addition, polynucleotide as used herein refers to triple-stranded regions comprising RNA or DNA or both RNA and DNA. The strands in such regions may be from the same molecule or from different molecules. The regions may include all of one or more of the molecules, but more typically involve only a region of some of the molecules. One of the molecules of a triple-helical region often is an oligonucleotide.

As used herein, the term "polynucleotide" includes DNAs or RNAs as described above that contain one or more modified bases. Thus, DNAs or RNAs with backbones modified for stability or for other reasons are "polynucleotides" as that term is intended herein. Moreover, DNAs or RNAs comprising unusual bases, such as inosine, or modified bases, such as tritium-labelled bases, to name just two examples, are polynucleotides as the term is used herein.

It will be appreciated that a great variety of modifications have been made to DNA and RNA that serve many useful purposes known to those of skill in the art. The term "polynucleotide" as it is employed herein embraces such chemically, enzymatically or metabolically modified forms of polynucleotides, as well as the chemical forms of DNA and RNA characteristic of viruses and cells, including simple and complex cells, *inter alia*.

"Polypeptides", as used herein, includes all polypeptides as described below. The basic structure of polypeptides is well known and has been described in innumerable textbooks and other publications in the art. In this context, the term is used herein to refer to any peptide or protein comprising two or more amino acids joined to each other in a linear chain by peptide bonds. As used herein, the term refers to both short chains, which also commonly are referred to in the art as peptides, oligopeptides and oligomers, for example, and to longer chains, which generally are referred to in the art as proteins, of which there are many types.

It will be appreciated that polypeptides often contain amino acids other than the 20 amino acids commonly referred to as the 20 naturally occurring amino acids, and that many amino acids, including the terminal amino acids, may be modified in a given polypeptide, either by natural processes such as glycosylation and other post-translational modifications, or by chemical modification techniques which are well known in the art. Even the common modifications that occur naturally in polypeptides are too numerous to list exhaustively here, but they are well described in basic texts and in more detailed monographs, as well as in a voluminous research literature, and they are well known to those of skill in the art. Among the known modifications which may be present in polypeptides of the present invention are, to name an illustrative few, acetylation, acylation, ADP-ribosylation, amidation, covalent attachment of flavin, covalent attachment of a heme moiety, covalent attachment of a polynucleotide or polynucleotide derivative, covalent attachment of a lipid or lipid derivative, covalent attachment of phosphatidylinositol, cross-linking, cyclization, disulfide bond formation, demethylation, formation of covalent cross-links, formation of cystine, formation of pyroglutamate, formylation, gamma-carboxylation, glycation, glycosylation, GPI anchor formation, hydroxylation, iodination, methylation, myristoylation, oxidation, proteolytic processing, phosphorylation, prenylation, racemization, selenoylation, sulfation, transfer-RNA mediated addition of amino acids to proteins such as arginylation,

and ubiquitination.

Such modifications are well known to those of skill and have been described in great detail in the scientific literature. Several particularly common modifications, glycosylation, lipid attachment, sulfation, gamma-carboxylation of glutamic acid residues, hydroxylation and ADP-ribosylation, for instance, are described in most basic texts, such as, for instance, I. E. Creighton, *Proteins-Structure and Molecular Properties*, 2nd Ed., W.H. Freeman and Company, New York, 1993. Many detailed reviews are available on this subject, such as, for example, those provided by Wold, F., in *Posttranslational Covalent Modification of Proteins*, B. C. Johnson, Ed., Academic Press, New York, pp 1-12, 1983; Seifter et al., *Meth. Enzymol.* 182: 626-646, 1990 and Rattan et al., *Protein Synthesis: Posttranslational Modifications and Aging*, Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci. 663: 48-62, 1992.

It will be appreciated, as is well known and as noted above, that polypeptides are not always entirely linear. For instance, polypeptides may be branched as a result of ubiquitination, and they may be circular, with or without branching, generally as a result of posttranslational events, including natural processing events and events brought about by human manipulation which do not occur naturally. Circular, branched and branched circular polypeptides may be synthesized by non-translational natural processes and by entirely synthetic methods, as well.

Modifications can occur anywhere in a polypeptide, including the peptide backbone, the amino acid side-chains and the amino or carboxyl termini. In fact, blockage of the amino or carboxyl group in a polypeptide, or both, by a covalent modification, is common in naturally occurring and synthetic polypeptides and such modifications may be present in polypeptides of the present invention, as well. For instance, the amino terminal residue of polypeptides made in *E. coli*, prior to proteolytic processing, almost invariably will be N-formylmethionine.

The modifications that occur in a polypeptide often will be a function of how it is made. For polypeptides made by expressing a cloned gene in a host, for instance, the nature and extent of the modifications in large part will be determined by the host cell posttranslational modification capacity and the modification signals present in the polypeptide amino acid sequence. For instance, as is well known, glycosylation often does not occur in bacterial hosts such as *E. coli*. Accordingly, when glycosylation is desired, a polypeptide should be expressed in a glycosylating host, generally a eukaryotic cell. Insect cells often carry out the same posttranslational glycosylations as mammalian cells and, for this reason, insect cell expression systems have been developed to efficiently express mammalian proteins having native patterns of glycosylation, *inter alia*. Similar considerations apply to other modifications.

It will be appreciated that the same type of modification may be present to the same or varying degree at several sites in a given polypeptide. Also, a given polypeptide may contain many types of modifications.

In general, as used herein, the term polypeptide encompasses all such modifications, particularly those that are present in polypeptides synthesized by expressing a polynucleotide in a host cell.

"Polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide" as used herein encompasses polynucleotides which include a sequence encoding a polypeptide of the present invention, particularly the PROST 03 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2). The term encompasses polynucleotides that include a single continuous region or discontinuous regions encoding the polypeptide (for example, interrupted by introns) together with additional regions.

"Biological activity" refers to the structural, regulatory or biochemical functions of naturally occurring PROST 03 polypeptide.

"Immunologic activity" refers to the capability of the natural, recombinant or synthetic PROST 03, or any fragment thereof, to induce a specific immune response in appropriate animals or cells and to bind with specific antibodies.

"Oligonucleotide(s)" refers to relatively short polynucleotides. Often the term refers to single-stranded deoxyribonucleotides, but it can refer as well to single- or double-stranded ribonucleotides, RNA:DNA hybrids and double-stranded DNAs, among others. Oligonucleotides, such as single-stranded DNA probe oligonucleotides, often are synthesized by chemical methods, such as those implemented on automated oligonucleotide synthesizers. However, oligonucleotides can be made by a variety of other methods, including *in vitro* recombinant DNA-mediated techniques and by expression of DNAs in cells and organisms. "Oligonucleotides" or "oligomers" or polynucleotide "fragment", "portion", or "segment" refers to a polynucleotide sequence of at least about 10 nucleotides and as many as about 60 nucleotides, preferably about 15 to 30 nucleotides, and more preferably about 20-25 nucleotides.

"Naturally occurring PROST 03" refers to PROST 03 produced by human cells that have not been genetically engineered and specifically contemplates various PROST 03 forms arising from post-translational modifications of the polypeptide including but not limited to acetylation, carboxylation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, lipidation, acylation, and cleavage.

"Variant(s)" of polynucleotides or polypeptides, as the term is used herein, are polynucleotides or polypeptides that differ from a reference polynucleotide or polypeptide, respectively. Variants in this sense are described below and elsewhere in the present disclosure in greater detail.

(1) A polynucleotide that differs in polynucleotide sequence from another, reference polynucleotide. Generally, differences are limited so that the polynucleotide sequences of the reference and the variant are closely similar overall and, in many regions, identical.

As noted below, changes in the polynucleotide sequence of the variant may be silent. That is, they may not alter the amino acids encoded by the polynucleotide. Where alterations are limited to silent changes of this type a variant will encode a polypeptide with the same amino acid sequence as the reference. Also as noted below, changes in the polynucleotide sequence of the variant may alter the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide encoded by the reference polynucleotide. Such polynucleotide changes may result in amino acid substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations in the polypeptide encoded by the reference sequence, as discussed below.

(2) A polypeptide that differs in amino acid sequence from another, reference polypeptide. Generally, differences are limited so that the sequences of the reference and the variant are closely similar

overall and, in many regions, identical. A variant and reference polypeptide may differ in amino acid sequence by one or more substitutions, additions, deletions, fusions and truncations, which may be present in any combination. Recombinant variants encoding these same or similar polypeptides may be synthesized or selected by making use of the "redundancy" in the genetic code. Various codon substitutions, such as the silent changes which produce various restriction sites, may be introduced to optimize cloning into a plasmid or viral vector or expression in a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic system. Mutations may also be introduced to modify the properties of the polypeptide, to change ligand-binding affinities, interchain affinities, or polypeptide degradation or turnover rate.

"Allelic variant" refers to an alternative form of the *prost* 03 polynucleotide. Alleles result from a mutation, i.e., a change in the polynucleotide sequence, and generally produce altered mRNAs or polypeptides whose structure or function may or may not be altered. Any given gene may have none, one or many allelic forms. Common mutational changes which give rise to alleles are generally ascribed to natural deletions, additions or substitutions of nucleotides. Each of these types of changes may occur alone, or in combination with the others, or one or more times in a given sequence.

"Derivative" refers to polynucleotides or polypeptides derived from naturally occurring *prost* 03 or PROST 03, respectively, by chemical modifications such as ubiquitination, labeling (e.g., with radionuclides, various enzymatic modifications), pegylation (derivatization with polyethylene glycol) or by insertion or substitution of amino acids such as ornithine (or substitution of the nucleotides which code for such as an amino acid), which do not normally occur in human proteins.

"Deletion" is defined as a change in either polynucleotide or amino acid sequences in which one or more polynucleotides or amino acid residues, respectively, are absent.

"Insertion" or "addition" is that change in a polynucleotide or amino acid sequence which has resulted in the addition of one or more polynucleotides or amino acid residues, respectively, as compared to the naturally occurring polynucleotide or amino acid sequence.

"Substitution" results from the replacement of one or more polynucleotides or amino acids by different polynucleotides or amino acids, respectively.

Preferably, amino acid substitutions are the result of replacing one amino acid with another amino acid having similar structural and/or chemical properties, such as the replacement of a leucine with an isoleucine or valine, an aspartate with a glutamate, or a threonine with a serine, i.e. conservative amino acid replacement. Insertions or deletions are typically in the range of about 1 to 5 amino acids. The variation allowed may be experimentally determined by systematically making insertions, deletions, or substitutions of amino acids in the polypeptide using recombinant DNA techniques and assaying the resulting recombinant variants for activity.

"Fragment" is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that entirely is the same as part but not all of the amino acid sequence of the aforementioned PROST 03 polypeptides and variants or derivatives thereof.

A polypeptide "fragment", "portion", or "segment" is a stretch of amino acid residues of at least about 5 amino acids, often at least about 7 amino acids, typically at least about 9 to 13 amino acids, and

in various embodiments, at least about 17 or more amino acids.

"Recombinant" or "recombinant DNA molecule" refers to a polynucleotide sequence which is not naturally occurring, or is made by the artificial combination of two otherwise separated segments of sequence. By "recombinantly produced" is meant artificial combination often accomplished by either chemical synthesis means, or by the artificial manipulation of isolated segments of polynucleotides, e.g., by genetic engineering techniques. Such manipulation is usually done to replace a codon with a redundant codon encoding the same or a conservative amino acid, while typically introducing or removing a sequence recognition site. Alternatively, it is performed to join together polynucleotide segments with desired functions to generate a single genetic entity comprising a desired combination of functions not found in the common natural forms. Restriction enzyme recognition sites, regulation sequences, control sequences, or other useful features may be incorporated by design. "Recombinant DNA molecules" include cloning and expression vectors. "Recombinant" may also refer to a polynucleotide which encodes a polypeptide and is prepared using recombinant DNA techniques.

"Isolated" means altered "by the hand of man" from its natural state; i.e., that, if it occurs in nature, it has been changed or removed from its original environment, or both. For example, a naturally occurring polynucleotide or a polypeptide naturally present in a living animal in its natural state is not "isolated", but the same polynucleotide or polypeptide separated from the coexisting materials of its natural state is "isolated", as the term is employed herein. For example, with respect to polynucleotides, the term isolated means that it is separated from the chromosome and cell in which it naturally occurs. Polynucleotides and polypeptides may occur in a composition, such as media formulations, solutions for introduction of polynucleotides or polypeptides, for example, into cells, compositions or solutions for chemical or enzymatic reactions, for instance, which are not naturally occurring compositions, and, therein remain isolated polynucleotides or polypeptides within the meaning of that term as it is employed herein.

"Substantially pure" and "substantially homogenous" are used interchangeably and describe PROST 03 polypeptide, or fragments thereof, or a polynucleotide segment encoding same, where such polypeptide or polynucleotide is separated from components that naturally accompany it. A PROST 03 polypeptide or fragment thereof, or DNA segment encoding same is substantially free of naturally-associated components when it is separated from the native contaminants which accompany it in its natural state. Thus, a polypeptide that is chemically synthesized or synthesized in a cellular system different from the cell in which it naturally originates will be substantially free from its naturally-associated components. Similarly, a polynucleotide that is chemically synthesized or synthesized in a cellular system different from the cell in which it naturally originated will be substantially free from its naturally-associated components.

"Homologous", when used to describe a polynucleotide, indicates that two polynucleotides, or designated sequences thereof, when optimally aligned and compared, are identical, with appropriate nucleotide insertions or deletions, in at least 70% of the nucleotides, usually from about 75% to 99%, and more preferably at least about 98 to 99% of the nucleotides.

"Similarity", when used to describe a polypeptide, is determined by comparing the amino acid sequence and the conserved amino acid substitutes of one polypeptide to the sequence of a second polypeptide

"Polymerase chain reaction" or "PCR" refers to a procedure wherein specific pieces of DNA are amplified as described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,683,195, issued 28 July 1987. Generally, sequence information from the ends of the polypeptide fragment of interest or beyond needs to be available, such that oligonucleotide primers can be designed; these primers will point towards one another, and will be identical or similar in sequence to opposite strands of the template to be amplified. The 5' terminal nucleotides of the two primers will coincide with the ends of the amplified material. PCR can be used to amplify specific DNA sequences from total genomic DNA, cDNA transcribed from total cellular RNA, plasmid sequences, etc. (See generally Mullis et al., *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.*, 51: 263, 1987; Erlich, ed., *PCR Technology*, Stockton Press, NY, 1989).

"Stringency" typically occurs in a range from about T_m (melting temperature)-5°C (5° below the T_m of the probe) to about 20°C to 25°C below T_m . As will be understood by those of skill in the art, a stringent hybridization can be used to identify or detect identical polynucleotide sequences or to identify or detect similar or related polynucleotide sequences. As herein used, the term "stringent conditions" means hybridization will occur only if there is at least 95% and preferably at least 97% identity between the sequences.

"Hybridization" as used herein, shall include "any process by which a polynucleotide strand joins with a complementary strand through base pairing" (Coombs, J., *Dictionary of Biotechnology*, Stockton Press, New York, N.Y., 1994).

"Therapeutically effective dose" refers to that amount of polypeptide or its antibodies, antagonists, or inhibitors, including antisense molecules and ribozymes, which ameliorate the symptoms or conditions of a disease state. Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity of such compounds can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., ED_{50} (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population) and LD_{50} (the dose lethal to 50% of the population). The dose ratio between therapeutic and toxic effects is the therapeutic index, and it can be expressed as the ratio, ED_{50}/LD_{50} .

"Treating" or "treatment" as used herein covers the treatment of a disease-state in a human patient, which disease-state is associated with prostate tumor growth.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention relates to novel PROST 03 polypeptides, *prost 03* polynucleotides, and antibodies directed toward PROST 03 polypeptides, among other things, as described in greater detail below. In particular, the invention relates to novel PROST 03 polypeptides and the polynucleotides encoding these PROST 03 polypeptides, and relates especially to PROST 03 having the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and *prost 03* having the polynucleotide sequence set out

in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1). The present invention also encompasses PROST 03 variants. A preferred PROST 03 variant is one having at least 70% similarity (preferably at least 70% identity) to the polypeptide sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and more preferably at least 90% similarity (more preferably at least 90% identity) to the polypeptide shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and still more preferably at least 95% similarity (still more preferably at least 95% identity) to the polypeptide sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and also includes portions of such polypeptides with such portion of the polypeptide generally containing at least 10 amino acids and more preferably at least 50 amino acids.

The coding sequence for the predicted PROST 03 polypeptide begins 282 base pairs from the 5' end of the nucleotide sequence shown in Fig 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1). PROST 03 contains 12-13 transmembrane-spanner structural domains characteristic of membrane transport proteins of the MFS family.

The present invention is based in part on the structural similarity shown in Figure 3 between PROST 03 and a sucrose/H⁺ symporter protein (DcSUT2).

The present invention is also based in part on the expression profile of PROST 03, as demonstrated by its expression in prostate tissue libraries and over-expression in prostate tumor libraries. This tissue profile is seen in analysis of mRNA expression in tissue samples from normal and tumor tissues by PCR-based Taqman analysis. This method of analysis demonstrated that mRNA encoding PROST 03 is over-expressed in prostate tissues as compared with other tissues.

Polynucleotides

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there are provided isolated polynucleotides that encode the PROST 03 polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

Using the information provided herein, such as the polynucleotide sequence set out in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), a polynucleotide of the present invention encoding a PROST 03 polypeptide may be obtained using standard cloning and screening procedures, such as those for cloning cDNAs using mRNA from cells of human tissue as starting material. Illustrative of the invention, the polynucleotide sequence in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1) was found in cDNA clones obtained from human prostate tissues. *Prost 03* was identified as a gene expressed in the prostate by mining Incyte's LifeSeq database. The nucleotide sequence was identified by searching the database for prostate tumor associated ESTs. The nucleotide sequence was found in the category of membrane transport molecules in the annotated database. Electronic Northern analysis of the distribution of *prost 03* polynucleotide sequences in the set of libraries revealed that *prost 03* mRNA was expressed at high levels in the prostate libraries and at lower levels in a number of other tissue libraries, including those from normal and tumor tissues.

Searching of the Incyte LifeSeq database gave rise to a cluster of cDNA clones which were obtained from Incyte for experimental use. Following the electronic assembly of *prost 03* clones into a contiguous polynucleotide sequence, and editing of the contiguous sequence, a partial coding sequence

was identified in the predicted assembled polynucleotide. This sequence was missing the 5' end of the coding region.

Additional 5' sequence for *prost 03* was cloned from a human prostate cDNA library. This led to the identification of clones in the Incyte database that were predicted to contain the full-length coding region for PROST 03. The full-length polypeptide sequence was used to search the SWISS-PROT and SPTREMBL databases using the FastA program. The results of this search indicated that the PROST 03 sequence shows similarity to a set of transporters that has been previously identified in plants, in particular to a set of sucrose/proton transporters. In particular, similarity was found between PROST 03 and DcSUT2, a sucrose/H⁺ symporter protein.

Incyte clones 3362030, 3458076 and 3352331 were obtained from Incyte for experimental work. These clones were fully sequenced and all contained the full coding sequence for the predicted PROST 03 protein. The sequence of clone 3352331 is shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

Polynucleotides of the present invention may be in the form of RNA, such as mRNA, or in the form of DNA, including, for instance, cDNA and genomic DNA obtained by cloning or produced by chemical synthetic techniques or by a combination thereof, or by methods described herein. The DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded. Single-stranded DNA may be the coding strand, also known as the sense strand, or it may be the non-coding strand, also referred to as the anti-sense strand.

The sequence which encodes the polypeptide may be identical to the coding sequence of the polynucleotide shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1). It also may be a polynucleotide with a different sequence, which, as a result of the redundancy (degeneracy) of the genetic code, encodes the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

Polynucleotides of the present invention which encode the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) may include, but are not limited to, the coding sequence for the polypeptide itself; the coding sequence of the polypeptide, together with additional, non-coding sequences, including for example, but not limited to, introns and non-coding 5' and 3' sequences, such as the transcribed, non-translated sequences that play a role in transcription, mRNA processing (for example, splicing and polyadenylation signals) or additional coding sequences which code for additional amino acids, such as those which provide additional functionalities. Thus, for instance, the polypeptide may be fused to a marker sequence, such as a peptide, which facilitates purification of the fused polypeptide. In certain preferred embodiments of this aspect of the invention, the marker sequence is a hexa-histidine peptide, such as the tag provided in a pTrcHisB vector (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) among others, many of which are commercially available. As described in Gentz et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA* 86: 821-824, 1989), for instance, hexa-histidine provides for convenient purification of the fusion protein.

The polynucleotides may encode a polypeptide which is the polypeptide plus additional amino or carboxyl-terminal amino acids, or amino acids interior to the polypeptide (when the active form has more than one polypeptide chain, for instance). Such sequences may play a role in processing of a polypeptide from precursor to final form, may facilitate polypeptide trafficking, may prolong or shorten

polypeptide half-life or may facilitate manipulation of a polypeptide for assay or production, among other things. As generally is the case *in situ*, the additional amino acids may be processed away from the polypeptide by proteolytic enzymes.

The present invention further relates to variants of the herein above described polynucleotides which encode for fragments, analogs and derivatives of the polypeptide having the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2). A variant of the polynucleotide may be a naturally occurring variant such as a naturally occurring allelic variant, or it may be a variant that is not known to occur naturally. Such non-naturally occurring variants of the polynucleotide may be made by mutagenesis techniques, including those applied to polynucleotides, cells or organisms.

Among variants in this regard are variants that differ from the aforementioned polynucleotides by polynucleotide substitutions, deletions or additions. The substitutions, deletions or additions may involve one or more polynucleotides. The variants may be altered in coding or non-coding regions or both. Alterations in the coding regions may produce conservative or non-conservative amino acid substitutions, deletions or additions.

Among the particularly preferred embodiments of the invention in this regard are polynucleotides encoding polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of PROST 03 set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2); variants, analogs, derivatives and fragments thereof, and fragments of the variants, analogs and derivatives.

Further particularly preferred in this regard are polynucleotides encoding PROST 03 variants, analogs, derivatives and fragments, and variants, analogs and derivatives of the fragments, which have the amino acid sequence of the PROST 03 polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) in which several, a few, 5 to 10, 1 to 5, 1 to 3, 2, 1 or no amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination. Especially preferred among these are silent substitutions, additions and deletions, which do not alter the properties and activities of the PROST 03 polypeptide. Also especially preferred in this regard are conservative substitutions. Most highly preferred are polynucleotides encoding polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) without substitutions.

Further preferred embodiments of the invention are polynucleotides that are at least 70% identical to a polynucleotide encoding the PROST 03 polypeptide having the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), and polynucleotides which are complementary to such polynucleotides. Alternatively, most highly preferred are polynucleotides that comprise a region that is at least 80% identical to a polynucleotide encoding the PROST 03 polypeptide and polynucleotides complementary thereto. In this regard, polynucleotides at least 90% identical to the same are particularly preferred, and among these particularly preferred polynucleotides, those with at least 95% are especially preferred. Furthermore, those with at least 97% are highly preferred among those with at least 95%, and among these, those with at least 98% and at least 99% are particularly highly preferred, with at least 99% being the more preferred.

Particularly preferred embodiments in this respect, moreover, are polynucleotides which encode polypeptides which retain substantially the same biological activity as the polypeptide encoded

by the polynucleotide sequence of Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1).

The present invention further relates to polynucleotides that hybridize to the herein above-described sequences. In this regard, the present invention especially relates to polynucleotides which hybridize under stringent conditions to the herein above-described polynucleotides.

As discussed additionally herein regarding polynucleotide assays of the invention, for instance, polynucleotides of the invention as discussed above, may be used as a hybridization probes for cDNA and genomic DNA to isolate full-length cDNAs and genomic clones encoding PROST 03 and to isolate cDNA and genomic clones of other genes that have a high sequence similarity to the *prost 03* gene. Such probes generally will comprise at least 15 bases. Preferably, such probes will have at least 30 bases and may have at least 50 bases.

For example, the coding region of the *prost 03* gene may be isolated by screening libraries using synthetic oligonucleotide probes that have been designed using the known DNA sequence. For example, a labeled oligonucleotide having a sequence complementary to that of a polynucleotide of the present invention can be used to screen a library of cDNA or genomic DNA to identify clones that hybridize to the probe.

In sum, a polynucleotide of the present invention may encode a polypeptide, a polypeptide plus a leader sequence (which may be referred to as a prepolypeptide).

It will be appreciated that the invention also relates to, among others, polynucleotides encoding the polypeptide fragments, polynucleotides that hybridize to polynucleotides encoding polypeptide fragments, particularly those that hybridize under stringent conditions, and polynucleotides, such as PCR primers, for amplifying polynucleotides that encode polypeptide fragments. In these regards, preferred polynucleotides are those that correspond to preferred polypeptide fragments, as discussed below.

Polypeptides

The present invention further relates to a PROST 03 polypeptide which has the deduced amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

The invention also relates to fragments, analogs and derivatives of these polypeptides. The terms fragment, derivative and analog when referring to the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) means a polypeptide which retains essentially the same biological activity as such a polypeptide.

The polypeptide of the present invention may be a recombinant polypeptide, a natural polypeptide or a synthetic polypeptide. In certain preferred embodiments, it is a recombinant polypeptide.

The fragment, derivative or analog of the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) may be (i) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or (ii) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or (iii) one in which the polypeptide is fused with

another compound, such as a compound to increase the half-life of the polypeptide (for example, polyethylene glycol) or (iv) one in which the additional amino acids are fused to the polypeptide, such as a leader or secretory sequence or a sequence which is employed for purification of the polypeptide. Such fragments, derivatives and analogs are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

Among the particularly preferred embodiments of the invention in this regard are polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of PROST 03 set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), variants, analogs, derivatives and fragments thereof, and variants, analogs and derivatives of the fragments.

Among preferred variants are those that vary from a reference by conservative amino acid substitutions. Such substitutions are those that substitute a given amino acid in a polypeptide by another amino acid of like characteristics. Typically seen as conservative substitutions are the replacements, one for another, among the aliphatic amino acids Ala, Val, Leu and Ile, interchange of the hydroxyl residues Ser and Thr, exchange of the acidic residues Asp and Glu, substitution between the amide residues Asn and Gln, exchange of the basic residues Lys and Arg and replacements among the aromatic residues Phe and Tyr.

Further particularly preferred in this regard are variants, analogs, derivatives and fragments, and variants, analogs and derivatives of the fragments, having the amino acid sequence of the PROST 03 polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) in which several, a few, 5 to 10, 1 to 5, 1 to 3, 2, 1 or no amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, in any combination. Especially preferred among these are silent substitutions, additions and deletions, which do not alter the properties and activities of the PROST 03 polypeptide. Also especially preferred in this regard are conservative substitutions. Most highly preferred are polypeptides having the amino acid sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) without substitutions.

The polypeptides of the present invention also include the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) as well as polypeptides which have at least 70% similarity (preferably at least 70% identity) to the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and more preferably at least 90% similarity (more preferably at least 90% identity) to the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and still more preferably at least 95% similarity (still more preferably at least 95% identity) to the polypeptide of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2) and also include portions of such polypeptides with such portion of the polypeptide generally containing at least 10 amino acids and more preferably at least 50 amino acids.

As known in the art "similarity" between two polypeptides is determined by comparing the amino acid sequence and its conserved amino acid substitutes of one polypeptide to the sequence of a second polypeptide.

Fragments or portions of the polypeptides of the present invention may be employed for producing the corresponding full-length polypeptides by peptide synthesis; therefore, the fragments may be employed as intermediates for producing the full-length polypeptides.

Fragments

Also among preferred embodiments of this aspect of the present invention are polypeptides comprising fragments of PROST 03, most particularly fragments of the PROST 03 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), and fragments of variants and derivatives of the PROST 03 of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

In this regard a fragment is a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that entirely is the same as part but not all of the amino acid sequence of the aforementioned PROST 03 polypeptides and variants or derivatives thereof.

Such fragments may be "free-standing," i.e., not part of or fused to other amino acids or polypeptides, or they may be comprised within a larger polypeptide of which they form a part or region. When comprised within a larger polypeptide, the presently discussed fragments most preferably form a single continuous region. However, several fragments may be comprised within a single larger polypeptide. For instance, certain preferred embodiments relate to a fragment of a PROST 03 polypeptide of the present invention comprised within a precursor polypeptide designed for expression in a host and having heterologous pre- and propolypeptide regions fused to the amino terminus of the PROST 03 fragment and an additional region fused to the carboxyl terminus of the fragment.

Therefore, fragments in one aspect of the meaning intended herein, refers to the portion or portions of a fusion polypeptide or fusion protein derived from PROST 03.

As representative examples of polypeptide fragments of the invention, there may be mentioned those which have from about 10 to about 553 amino acids.

In this context "about" includes the particularly recited range and ranges larger or smaller by several, a few, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 amino acid at either extreme or at both extremes. For instance, about 553 amino acids in this context means a polypeptide fragment of 10 plus or minus several, a few, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 amino acids to 553 plus or minus several a few, 5, 4, 3, 2 or 1 amino acid residues, i.e., ranges as broad as 10 minus several amino acids to 553 plus several amino acids to as narrow as 10 plus several amino acids to 553 minus several amino acids.

Highly preferred in this regard are the recited ranges plus or minus as many as 5 amino acids at either or at both extremes. Particularly highly preferred are the recited ranges plus or minus as many as 3 amino acids at either or at both the recited extremes. Especially particularly highly preferred are ranges plus or minus 1 amino acid at either or at both extremes or the recited ranges with no additions or deletions. Most highly preferred of all in this regard are fragments from about 10 to about 553 amino acids.

Among especially preferred fragments of the invention are truncation mutants of PROST 03. Truncation mutants of PROST 03 include variants or derivatives of the sequence of Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), except for deletion of a continuous series of residues (that is, a continuous region, part or portion) that includes the amino terminus of the sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), or a continuous series of residues that includes the carboxyl terminus or, as in double truncation mutants, deletion of two continuous series of residues, one including the amino terminus and one including the carboxyl terminus. Fragments having the size ranges set out above also are preferred embodiments of

truncation fragments, which are especially preferred among fragments generally.

Especially preferred in this aspect of the invention are fragments characterized by biological and/or immunological attributes of PROST 03. Such fragments include those containing the predicted loop domains and amino and carboxy terminal domains, which include those fragments used to generate antibodies, as described in Example 4.

Certain preferred regions in these regards are set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), and include, but are not limited to, regions of the aforementioned types identified by analysis of the amino acid sequence set out in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO: 2).

Further preferred regions are those that mediate activities of PROST 03. Most highly preferred in this regard are fragments that have a chemical, biological or other activity of PROST 03, including those with a similar activity or an improved activity, or with a decreased undesirable activity. Highly preferred in this regard are fragments that contain regions that are homologs in sequence, or in position, or in both sequence and position to active regions of related polypeptides, such as the other proteins of the MFS family, which includes PROST 03.

Vectors, host cells, and expression systems

The present invention also relates to vectors which include polynucleotides of the present invention, host cells which are genetically engineered with vectors of the invention and the production of polypeptides of the invention by recombinant techniques. Such techniques are described in Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Plainview, N.Y., 1989 and Ausubel, F.M. et al., *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, N.Y., 1989.

Host cells can be genetically engineered to incorporate polynucleotides and express polypeptides of the present invention. For instance, polynucleotides may be introduced into host cells using well known techniques of infection, transduction, transfection, transvection and transformation. The polynucleotides may be introduced alone or with other polynucleotides. Such other polynucleotides may be introduced independently, co-introduced or introduced joined to the polynucleotides of the invention.

Thus, for instance, polynucleotides of the invention may be transfected into host cells with another, separate, polynucleotide encoding a selectable marker, using standard techniques for co-transfection and selection in, for instance, mammalian cells. In this case, the polynucleotides generally will be stably incorporated into the host cell genome.

Alternatively, the polynucleotides may be joined to a vector containing a selectable marker for propagation in a host. The vector construct may be introduced into host cells by the aforementioned techniques. Generally, a plasmid vector is introduced as DNA in a precipitate, such as a calcium phosphate precipitate, or in a complex with a charged lipid. Electroporation also may be used to introduce polynucleotides into a host. If the vector is a virus, it may be packaged *in vitro* or introduced into a packaging cell and the packaged virus may be transduced into cells. A wide variety of techniques

suitable for making polynucleotides and for introducing polynucleotides into cells in accordance with this aspect of the invention are well known and routine to those of skill in the art. Such techniques are reviewed at length in Sambrook et al. cited above, which is illustrative of the many laboratory manuals that detail these techniques. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the vector may be, for example, a plasmid vector, a single or double-stranded phage vector, a single or double-stranded RNA or DNA viral vector. Such vectors may be introduced into cells as polynucleotides, preferably DNA, by well known techniques for introducing DNA and RNA into cells. The vectors, in the case of phage and viral vectors, also may be and preferably are introduced into cells as packaged or encapsidated virus by well known techniques for infection and transduction. Viral vectors may be replication competent or replication defective. In the latter case viral propagation generally will occur only in complementing host cells.

Preferred among vectors, in certain respects, are those for expression of polynucleotides and polypeptides of the present invention. Generally, such vectors comprise cis-acting control regions effective for expression in a host operatively linked to the polynucleotide to be expressed. Appropriate trans-acting factors either are supplied by the host, supplied by a complementing vector or supplied by the vector itself upon introduction into the host.

In certain preferred embodiments in this regard, the vectors provide for specific expression. Such specific expression may be inducible expression or expression only in certain types of cells or both inducible and cell-specific. Particularly preferred among inducible vectors are vectors that can be induced for expression by environmental factors that are easy to manipulate, such as temperature and nutrient additives. A variety of vectors suitable to this aspect of the invention, including constitutive and inducible expression vectors for use in prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts, are well known and employed routinely by those of skill in the art.

The engineered host cells can be cultured in conventional nutrient media, which may be modified as appropriate for, *inter alia*, activating promoters, selecting transformants or amplifying genes. Culture conditions, such as temperature, pH and the like, previously used with the host cell selected for expression generally will be suitable for expression of polypeptides of the present invention as will be apparent to those of skill in the art.

A great variety of expression vectors can be used to express a polypeptide of the invention.

Such vectors include chromosomal, episomal and virus-derived vectors e.g., vectors derived from bacterial plasmids, from bacteriophage, from yeast episomes, from yeast chromosomal elements, from viruses such as baculoviruses, papova viruses, such as SV40, vaccinia viruses, adenoviruses, fowl pox viruses, pseudorabies viruses, retroviruses, and alphaviruses such as Sindbis virus, and vectors derived from combinations thereof, such as those derived from plasmid and bacteriophage genetic elements such as cosmids and phagemids, all may be used for expression in accordance with this aspect of the present invention. Generally, any vector suitable to maintain, propagate or express polynucleotides to express a polypeptide in a host may be used for expression in this regard.

The appropriate DNA sequence may be inserted into the vector by any of a variety of well-

known and routine techniques. In general, a DNA sequence for expression is joined to an expression vector by cleaving the DNA sequence and the expression vector with one or more restriction endonucleases and then joining the restriction fragments together using T4 DNA ligase. Procedures for restriction and ligation that can be used to this end are well known and routine to those of skill. Suitable procedures in this regard, and for constructing expression vectors using alternative techniques, which also are well known and routine to those of skill, are set forth in great detail in Sambrook et al. cited elsewhere herein.

The DNA sequence in the expression vector is operatively linked to appropriate expression control sequence(s), including, for instance, a promoter to direct mRNA transcription. Representatives of such promoters include the phage lambda PL promoter, the *E. coli* lac, trp, tac, and trc promoters, the SV40 early and late promoters, the human cytomegalovirus (CMV) immediate early promoter, and promoters of retroviral LTRs, to name just a few. It will be understood that numerous promoters not mentioned are suitable for use in this aspect of the invention, are well known and may readily be employed by those of skill in the manner illustrated by the discussion and the examples herein.

In general, expression constructs will contain sites for transcription initiation and termination, and, in the transcribed region, a ribosome binding site for translation. The coding portion of the transcripts expressed by the constructs will include a translation initiating AUG at the beginning and a termination codon appropriately positioned at the end of the polypeptide to be translated.

In addition, the constructs may contain control regions that regulate as well as engender expression. Generally, in accordance with many commonly practiced procedures, such regions will operate by controlling transcription, such as repressor binding sites and enhancers, among others.

Vectors for propagation and expression generally will include selectable markers. Such markers also may be suitable for amplification or the vectors may contain additional markers for this purpose. In this regard, the expression vectors preferably contain one or more selectable marker genes to provide a phenotypic trait for selection of transformed host cells. Preferred markers include dihydrofolate reductase, neomycin, puromycin, or hygromycin resistance for eukaryotic cell culture, and tetracycline, theomycin, kanamycin or ampicillin resistance genes for culturing *E. coli* and other bacteria.

The vector containing the appropriate DNA sequence as described elsewhere herein, as well as an appropriate promoter, and other appropriate control sequences, may be introduced into an appropriate host using a variety of well known techniques suitable to expression therein of a desired polypeptide. Representative examples of appropriate hosts include bacterial cells, such as *E. coli*, *Streptomyces* and *Salmonella typhimurium* cells; fungal cells, such as yeast cells; insect cells such as *Drosophila* S2 and *Spodoptera* Sf9 cells; animal cells such as CHO, COS and Bowes melanoma cells; and plant cells, preferably insect cells BTI-TN-5B1-4. Hosts for a great variety of expression constructs are well known, and those of skill will be enabled by the present disclosure readily to select a host for expressing a polypeptides in accordance with this aspect of the present invention.

Various mammalian cell culture systems can be employed for expression, as well. Examples of mammalian expression systems include the COS-7 lines of monkey kidney fibroblast (Gluzman et al.,

Cell 23: 175, 1991). Other cell lines capable of expressing a compatible vector include for example, the C127, 3T3, CHO, HeLa, human kidney 293 and BHK cell lines. In mammalian host cells, a number of viral-based expression systems may be utilized. In cases where an adenovirus is used as an expression vector, the polynucleotide sequence coding for PROST 03 may be ligated into an adenovirus transcription/translation complex consisting of the late promoter and tripartite leader sequence. Insertion in a nonessential E1 or E3 region of the viral genome will result in a viable virus capable of expressing PROST 03 in infected host cells (Logan and Shenk, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:3655-59, 1984). In addition, transcription enhancers, such as the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) enhancer, may be used to increase expression in mammalian host cells.

More particularly, the present invention also includes recombinant constructs, such as expression constructs, comprising one or more of the sequences described above. The constructs comprise a vector, such as a plasmid or viral vector, into which such a sequence of the invention has been inserted. The sequence may be inserted in a forward or reverse orientation. In certain preferred embodiments in this regard, the construct further comprises regulatory sequences, including, for example, a promoter, operably linked to the sequence. Large numbers of suitable vectors and promoters are known to those of skill in the art, and there are many commercially available vectors suitable for use in the present invention.

The following vectors, which are commercially available, are provided by way of example. Among vectors preferred for use in bacteria are pQE70, pQE60 and pQE-9, available from Qiagen USA (Valencia, CA); pBS vectors, Phagescript® vectors, Bluescript® vectors, pNH8A, pNH16A, pNH18A, pNH46A, available from Stratagene (LaJolla, CA); and ptc99a, pK223-3, pKK233-3, pDR540, pRIT5 available from Pharmacia Biotech (Piscataway, N.J.). Among preferred eukaryotic vectors are pWLNEO, pSV2CAT, pOG44, PXT1 and pSG available from Stratagene; and PSVK3, pBPV, pMSG and pSVL available from Pharmacia Biotech. Most preferred is the pCIneo vector available from Promega. These vectors are listed solely by way of illustration of the many commercially available and well known vectors that are available to those of skill in the art for use in accordance with this aspect of the present invention. It will be appreciated that any other plasmid or vector suitable for, for example, introduction, maintenance, propagation or expression of a polynucleotide or polypeptide of the invention in a host may be used in this aspect of the invention.

Promoter regions can be selected from any desired gene using vectors that contain a reporter transcription unit lacking a promoter region, such as a chloramphenicol acetyl transferase ("cat") transcription unit, downstream of restriction site or sites for introducing a candidate promoter fragment; i.e., a fragment that may contain a promoter. As is well known, introduction into the vector of a promoter-containing fragment at the restriction site upstream of the cat gene engenders production of CAT activity, which can be detected by standard CAT assays. Vectors suitable to this end are well known and readily available. Two such vectors are pKK232-B and pCM7. Thus, promoters for expression of polynucleotides of the present invention include not only well known and readily available promoters, but also promoters that readily may be obtained by the foregoing technique, using a reporter

gene.

Among known bacterial promoters suitable for expression of polynucleotides and polypeptides in accordance with the present invention are the *E. coli* lacI and lacZ promoters, the T3 and T7 promoters, the T5 tac promoter, the lambda PR, PL promoters, the trp promoter, and the trc hybrid promoter, which is derived from the trp and lac promoters. Among known eukaryotic promoters suitable in this regard are the CMV immediate early promoter, the HSV thymidine kinase promoter, the early and late SV40 promoters, the promoters of retroviral LTRs, such as those of the Rous sarcoma virus ("RSV") and metallothionein promoters, such as the mouse metallothionein-I promoter.

Selection of appropriate vectors and promoters for expression in a host cell is a well known procedure and the requisite techniques for expression vector construction, introduction of the vector into the host and expression in the host are routine skills in the art.

Generally, recombinant expression vectors will include origins of replication, a promoter derived from a highly-expressed gene to direct transcription of a downstream structural sequence, and a selectable marker to permit isolation of vector containing cells after exposure to the vector.

The present invention also relates to host cells containing the above-described constructs discussed above. The host cell can be a higher eukaryotic cell, such as a mammalian cell, or a lower eukaryotic cell, such as a yeast cell, or the host cell can be a prokaryotic cell, such as a bacterial cell. Constructs in host cells can be used in a conventional manner to produce the gene product encoded by the recombinant sequence.

Polypeptides can be expressed in mammalian cells, yeast, bacteria, or other cells under the control of appropriate promoters. Cell-free translation systems can also be employed to produce such proteins using RNAs derived from the DNA constructs of the present invention. Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts are described by Sambrook et al., cited elsewhere herein.

Transcription of the DNA encoding the polypeptides of the present invention by higher eukaryotes may be increased by inserting an enhancer sequence into the vector. Enhancers are cis-acting elements of DNA, usually about from 10 to 300 bp that act to increase transcriptional activity of a promoter in a given host cell-type. Examples of enhancers include the SV40 enhancer, which is located on the late side of the replication origin at bp 100 to 270, the cytomegalovirus early promoter enhancer, the polyoma enhancer on the late side of the replication origin, and adenovirus enhancers.

Polynucleotides of the invention, encoding the heterologous structural sequence of a polypeptide of the invention generally will be inserted into the vector using standard techniques so that it is operably linked to the promoter for expression. The polynucleotide will be positioned so that the transcription start site is located appropriately 5' to a ribosome binding site. The ribosome binding site will be 5' to the AUG that initiates translation of the polypeptide to be expressed. Generally, there will be no other open reading frames that begin with an initiation codon, usually AUG, and lie between the ribosome binding site and the initiating AUG. Also, generally, there will be a translation stop codon at the end of the polypeptide and there will be a polyadenylation signal and a transcription termination

signal appropriately disposed at the 3' end of the transcribed region.

For secretion of the translated protein into the lumen of the endoplasmic reticulum, into the periplasmic space or into the extracellular environment, appropriate secretion signals may be incorporated into the expressed polypeptide. The signals may be endogenous to the polypeptide or they may be heterologous signals. The polypeptide may be expressed in a modified form, such as a fusion protein, and may include not only secretion signals but also additional heterologous functional regions. Thus for instance, a region of additional amino acids, particularly charged amino acids, may be added to the N-terminus of the polypeptide to improve stability and persistence in the host cell, during purification or during subsequent handling and storage. Also, special regions also may be added to the polypeptide to facilitate purification. Such regions may be removed prior to final preparation of the polypeptide. The addition of peptide moieties to polypeptides to engender secretion or excretion, to improve stability and to facilitate purification, among others, are familiar and routine techniques in the art. For example, when large quantities of PROST 03 are needed for the induction of antibodies, vectors which direct high level expression of fusion proteins that are readily purified may be desirable. Such vectors include, but are not limited to, the multifunctional *E. coli* cloning and expression vectors such as Bluescript® (Stratagene), in which the *prost 03* coding sequence may be ligated into the vector in frame with sequence for the amino-terminal Met and the subsequent 7 residues of β -galactosidase so that a hybrid protein is produced; pIN vectors (Van Heede and Shuster, *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:5503-5509, 1989) and the like. PTrcHis vectors (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA) may be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins containing a polyhistidine (6xHis) tag for rapid purification. Proteins made in such systems are designed to include cleavage sites, such as an enterokinase cleavage site, so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the fusion peptide moiety at will.

Following transformation of a suitable host strain and growth of the host strain to an appropriate cell density, inducible promoters, if present, can be induced by appropriate means (e.g., temperature shift or exposure to chemical inducer) and cells cultured for an additional period.

Cells typically then are harvested by centrifugation, disrupted by physical or chemical means, and the resulting crude extract retained for further purification.

Microbial cells employed in expression of proteins can be disrupted by any convenient method, including freeze-thaw cycling, sonication, mechanical disruption, or use of cell lysing agents, such methods are well known to those skilled in the art.

The PROST 03 polypeptide can be recovered and purified from recombinant cell cultures by well-known methods including ammonium sulfate or ethanol precipitation, acid extraction, anion or cation exchange chromatography, phosphocellulose chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography, affinity chromatography, hydroxylapatite chromatography and lectin chromatography. Most preferably, high performance liquid chromatography ("HPLC") is employed for purification. Well known techniques for refolding protein may be employed to regenerate active conformation when the polypeptide is denatured during isolation and or purification. Various other methods of protein purification well known in the art include those described in Deutscher, M., *Methods in Enzymology*, Vol

182, Academic Press, San Diego, 1982; and Scopes, R., *Protein Purification: Principles and Practice* Springer-Verlag, New York, 1982.

Alternatively, the polypeptides of the present invention can be produced by direct peptide synthesis using solid-phase techniques (Stewart et al., *Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis*, W.H. Freeman Co., San Francisco, 1969; Merrifield, J., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85:2149-2154, 1963). *In vitro* protein synthesis may be performed using manual techniques or by automation. Automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using Applied Biosystems 431A Peptide Synthesizer (Perkin Elmer, Foster City, Calif) in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Various fragments of PROST 03 may be chemically synthesized separately and combined using chemical methods to produce the full length molecule.

Polypeptides of the present invention include naturally purified products, products of chemical synthetic procedures, and products produced by recombinant techniques from a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host, including, for example, bacterial, yeast, higher plant, insect and mammalian cells. Depending upon the host employed in a recombinant production procedure, the polypeptides of the present invention may be glycosylated or may be non-glycosylated. In addition, polypeptides of the invention may also include an initial modified methionine residue, in some cases as a result of host-mediated processes.

Uses of PROST 03 polypeptides and the polynucleotides which encode them

Prost 03 polynucleotides and PROST 03 polypeptides may be used in accordance with the present invention for a variety of applications, particularly those that make use of the chemical and biological properties of PROST 03. Additional applications relate to diagnosis and to treatment of diseases of cell proliferation, such as prostate cancer. These aspects of the invention are illustrated further by the following discussion and are described further within the body of the specification.

The rationale for the use of the polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences of the present invention is based on the preferential expression of PROST 03 in prostate tissues as compared with other tissues and on the chemical and structural similarity between the PROST 03 disclosed herein and sugar porter molecules, which suggest that PROST 03 is a cell-surface protein. PROST 03 and molecules related to PROST 03 may be used in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions, disorders or diseases associated with inappropriate growth of prostate tissue. These would include, but are not limited to, cancer and metastatic tumor growth in prostate as well as other tumor tissues.

Prost 03 polynucleotide sequences can be used as DNA probes, and as targets for antisense and ribozyme therapy, or as templates for the production of antisense polynucleotides.

PROST 03 polypeptides can be used to generate antibodies to PROST 03 which may be useful in detecting the levels of PROST 03 polypeptide in cells and tissues and in targeting drugs to primary and metastatic tumors.

PROST 03 polypeptides may be used to stimulate an immune response to PROST 03 containing cells.

Polynucleotides encoding PROST 03 may be useful in diagnostic assays for detecting the levels of polynucleotides encoding PROST 03 in cells and tissues.

In conditions associated with expression of PROST 03, such as prostate cancer, it may be advantageous to suppress expression or activity of PROST 03 for therapeutic gain. PROST 03 expression could be suppressed by administration of antisense oligonucleotides or ribozymes. Furthermore, antibodies that bind to PROST 03 polypeptides and effect PROST 03 activity can be administered to treat diseases or conditions associated with PROST 03 activity. In addition, small molecule agonists and antagonists may be administered to effect PROST 03 activity.

Polynucleotide assays

This invention is also related to the use of the *prost 03*-related polynucleotides to detect complementary polynucleotides such as, for example, as a diagnostic reagent. Detection of *prost 03* polynucleotides associated with a disease state will provide a tool for the development of *in vitro* and *in vivo* diagnostics that can add or define a diagnosis of a disease or susceptibility to a disease which results from tissue specific expression of PROST 03.

Individuals carrying mutations in the gene encoding PROST 03 may be detected at the DNA level by a variety of techniques. Polynucleotide samples for diagnosis may be obtained from a patient's cells, such as from blood, urine, saliva, tissue biopsy and autopsy material. The genomic DNA may be used directly for detection or may be amplified enzymatically by using PCR prior to analysis (Saiki et al., *Nature*, 324 163-166, 1986). RNA or cDNA may also be used in the same ways. As an example, PCR primers complementary to the polynucleotide sequence encoding PROST 03 can be used to identify and analyze *prost 03* expression and mutations. For example, deletions and insertions can be detected by a change in size of the amplified product in comparison to the normal genotype. Point mutations can be identified by hybridizing amplified DNA to radiolabeled *prost 03* RNA or alternatively, radiolabeled *prost 03* antisense DNA sequences. Perfectly matched sequences can be distinguished from mismatched duplexes by RNase A digestion or by differences in melting temperatures.

Sequence differences between a reference gene and genes having mutations also may be revealed by direct DNA sequencing. In addition, cloned DNA segments may be employed as probes to detect specific DNA segments. The sensitivity of such methods can be greatly enhanced by appropriate use of PCR or another amplification method. For example, a sequencing primer is used with double-stranded PCR product or a single-stranded template molecule generated by a modified PCR. The sequence determination is performed by conventional procedures with radiolabeled polynucleotide or by automatic sequencing procedures with fluorescent tags.

Genetic testing based on DNA sequence differences may be achieved by detection of alteration in electrophoretic mobility of DNA fragments in gels, with or without denaturing agents. Small sequence deletions and insertions can be visualized by high resolution gel electrophoresis. DNA fragments of different sequences may be distinguished on denaturing formamide gradient gels in which the mobilities of different DNA fragments are retarded in the gel at different positions according to their specific

melting or partial melting temperatures (see, e.g., Myers et al., *Science*, 230: 1242, 1985).

Sequence changes at specific locations also may be revealed by nuclease protection assays, such as RNase and S1 protection or the chemical cleavage method (e.g., Catton et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, 85:4397-4401, 1988).

5 Thus, the detection of a specific DNA sequence may be achieved by methods such as hybridization, RNase protection, chemical cleavage, direct DNA sequencing or the use of restriction enzymes, (e.g., restriction fragment length polymorphisms ("RFLP") and Southern blotting of genomic DNA).

10 In addition to more conventional gel-electrophoresis and DNA sequencing, mutations also can be detected by *in situ* analysis.

Polypeptide assays

15 The present invention also relates to diagnostic assays such as quantitative and diagnostic assays for detecting levels of PROST 03 polypeptide in cells and tissues and body fluids, including determination of normal and abnormal levels. Thus, for instance, a diagnostic assay in accordance with the invention for detecting over-expression of PROST 03 polypeptide compared to normal control tissue samples may be used to detect the presence of neoplasia, for example, prostate cancer. Such diagnostic tests may be used to detect metastatic tumor growth, as well. Assay techniques that can be used to determine levels of a polypeptide, such as a PROST 03 polypeptide of the present invention, in a sample derived from a host are well-known to those of skill in the art. Such assay methods include radioimmunoassays (RIA), competitive-binding assays, western Blot analysis and enzyme-linked immunoabsorbant assays (ELISA), and fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS). Among these ELISAs frequently are preferred. An ELISA assay initially comprises preparing an antibody specific to PROST 03, preferably a monoclonal antibody. In addition a reporter antibody generally is prepared
25 which binds to the monoclonal antibody. The reporter antibody is attached to a detectable reagent such as a radioactive, fluorescent or enzymatic reagent, in this example horseradish peroxidase enzyme

30 To carry out an ELISA a sample is removed from a host and incubated on a solid support, e.g. a polystyrene dish, that binds the polypeptides in the sample. Any free polypeptide binding sites on the dish are then covered by incubating with a non-specific protein such as bovine serum albumin. Next, the monoclonal antibody is incubated in the dish during which time the monoclonal antibodies attach to any PROST 03 polypeptides attached to the polystyrene dish. Unbound monoclonal antibody is washed out with buffer. The reporter antibody linked to horseradish peroxidase is placed in the dish resulting in binding of the reporter antibody to any monoclonal antibody bound to PROST 03. Unattached reporter antibody is then washed out. Reagents for peroxidase activity, including a
35 colorimetric substrate are then added to the dish. Immobilized peroxidase, linked to PROST 03 through the primary and secondary antibodies, produces a colored reaction product. The amount of color developed in a given time period indicates the amount of PROST 03 polypeptide present in the sample. Quantitative results typically are obtained by reference to a standard curve.

These and other assays are described, among other places, in Hampton et al. (*Serological Methods, a Laboratory Manual*, APS Press, St Paul, Minn, 1990) and Maddox et al. (*J. Exp. Med.* 158:12111, 1983).

Antibodies

The invention further relates to antibodies that specifically bind to PROST 03, herein referred to as PROST 03 antibodies. PROST 03 expression is highly restricted to prostate tissues, both tumor and normal. In addition, PROST 03 expression is strong in prostatic carcinoma metastatic to bone and lymph node. These features combined with its potential cell surface location represent characteristics of an excellent marker for screening, diagnosis, prognosis, follow-up assays and imaging methods. In addition, these characteristics indicate that PROST 03 may be an excellent target for therapeutic methods such as targeted antibody therapy, immunotherapy, and gene therapy. As used herein, the term "specifically binds to" refers to the interaction of an antibody and a polypeptide, in which the interaction is dependent upon the presence of a particular structure (i.e., the antigenic determinant or epitope) on the polypeptide; in other words, the antibody is recognizing and binding to a specific polypeptide structure rather than to proteins in general.

The PROST 03 polypeptides, their fragments or other derivatives, or analogs thereof, or cells or cell membranes containing them can be used as an immunogen to produce antibodies thereto (Harlow, *Antibodies*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, NY (1989)). In addition, a PROST 03 encoding nucleic acid molecule and recombinant vectors capable of expressing PROST 03 can be used as immunogens to produce antibodies (Gurunathan et al., *Ann. Rev. Immunol.* 18:927-74, 2000; Shedlock and Weiner, *J. Leukoc. Biol.* 68:793-806, 2000). These antibodies can be, for example, polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies. The present invention also includes chimeric, single chain, humanized, and human antibodies, as well as Fab fragments, or the product of a Fab expression library. Various procedures known in the art may be used for the production of such antibodies and fragments.

Antibodies generated against the polypeptides corresponding to a sequence of the present invention can be obtained by direct injection of the polypeptides into an animal or by administering the polypeptides to an animal, preferably a nonhuman. The antibody so obtained will then bind the polypeptides itself. In this manner even a sequence encoding only a fragment of the polypeptides can be used to generate antibodies binding the native polypeptides. Such antibodies can then be used to isolate the polypeptide from tissue expressing that polypeptide.

For preparation of monoclonal antibodies, any technique which provides antibodies produced by continuous cell line cultures can be used. Examples include the hybridoma technique (Kohler and Milstein, *Nature* 256: 495-497, 1975), the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kozbor et al., *Immunology Today* 4: 72, 1983) and the EBV-hybridoma technique to produce human monoclonal antibodies (Cole et al., in *Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer*, Alan R. Liss, Inc., 77-96, 1985).

In addition, techniques developed for the production of "chimeric antibodies", the splicing of mouse antibody genes to human antibody genes to obtain a molecule with appropriate antigen specificity

and biological activity can be used (Morrison et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 81:6851-6855, 1984; Neuberger et al., *Nature* 312:604-608, 1984; Takeda et al., *Nature* 314:452-454, 1985). Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Pat. No. 4,946,778) can be adapted to produce PROST 03-specific single chain antibodies.

Antibodies may also be produced by inducing *in vivo* production in the lymphocyte population or by screening recombinant immunoglobulin libraries or panels of highly specific binding reagents as disclosed in Orlandi et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 86:3833-3837, 1989) and Winter and Milstein (*Nature* 349:293-299, 1991).

Antibody fragments which contain specific binding sites for PROST 03 may also be generated. For example, such fragments include, but are not limited to the F(ab')₂ fragments which can be produced by pepsin digestion of the antibody molecule and the Fab fragments which can be generated by reducing the disulfide bridges of the F(ab')₂ fragments. Alternatively, Fab expression libraries may be constructed to allow rapid and easy identification of monoclonal Fab fragments with the desired specificity (Huse et al., *Science* 256:1270-1281, 1989).

The amino acid sequence of PROST 03 presented herein may be used to select specific regions of the PROST 03 polypeptide for generating antibodies. As will be understood by those skilled in the art, the regions or epitopes of a PROST 03 polypeptide to which an antibody is directed may vary with the intended application. For example, antibodies intended for use in an immunoassay for the detection of membrane-bound PROST 03 on prostate cells should be directed toward accessible epitopes on the PROST 03 polypeptide. Regions of the PROST 03 polypeptide that show immunogenic structure, as well as other regions and domains, can readily be identified using various other methods known in the art, such as Chou-Fasman, Garnier-Robson, or Jameson-Wolf analysis. Fragments containing these residues are particularly suited in generating anti-PROST 03 antibodies. Particularly useful fragments include, but are not limited to, the sequences VPPLLLLEVGVEEKF (SEQ ID NO: 18), YTDFVGEGLYQGVPRAEP (SEQ ID NO: 19), EPGTEARRHYDEGVGM (SEQ ID NO: 20), EKQVFLPKYRGDTGGASSEDLSMTSF (SEQ ID NO: 21), PTEPAEGLSAPSLSPH (SEQ ID NO: 26), LAGLLCPDRPLE (SEQ ID NO: 22), IDWDTSALAPYLGTQEE (SEQ ID NO: 23), DKSDLAKYSA (SEQ ID NO: 24), and DVFGEGLYQGVPRAEGTEARRHYDEGVR (SEQ ID NO: 25). Generation of polyclonal antibodies to these regions is described in Example 4.

PROST 03 antibodies of the invention may be particularly useful in diagnostic assays, imaging methodologies, and therapeutic methods for the management of prostate cancer. The invention provides various immunological assays useful for the detection of PROST 03 polypeptides and for the diagnosis of prostate cancer. Such assays generally comprise one or more PROST 03 antibodies capable of recognizing and binding a PROST 03 polypeptide. The most preferred antibodies will selectively bind to PROST 03 and will not bind (or bind weakly) to non-PROST 03 polypeptides. The assays include various immunological assay formats well known in the art, including but not limited to various types of radioimmunoassays, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays, and the like. In addition, immunological imaging methods capable of detecting prostate cancer are also provided by the

invention, including but not limited to radioscintigraphic imaging methods using labeled PROST 03 antibodies. Such assays may be clinically useful in the detection, monitoring and prognosis of prostate cancer.

The above-described antibodies may be employed to isolate or to identify clones expressing the polypeptide or to purify the polypeptide of the present invention by attachment of the antibody to a solid support for isolation and/or purification by affinity chromatography.

Additionally, PROST 03 antibodies may be used to isolate PROST 03 positive cells using cell sorting and purification techniques. In particular, PROST 03 antibodies may be used to isolate prostate cancer cells from xenograft tumor tissue, from cells in culture, etc. using antibody-based cell sorting or affinity purification techniques. Other uses of the PROST 03 antibodies of the invention include generating anti-idiotypic antibodies that mimic the PROST 03 polypeptide.

The PROST 03 antibodies can be used for detecting the presence of prostate cancer or tumor metastasis. The presence of such PROST 03-containing cells within various biological samples, including serum, prostate and other tissue biopsy specimens, may be detected with PROST 03 antibodies. In addition, PROST 03 antibodies may be used in various imaging methodologies such as immunoscintigraphy with Tc-99m (or other isotope) conjugated antibody. For example, an imaging protocol similar to the one recently described using an In-111 conjugated anti-PSMA antibody may be used to detect recurrent and metastatic prostate carcinomas (Sodee et al., *Clin. Nuc. Med.* 21: 759-766, 1997).

The PROST 03 antibodies of the invention may be labeled with a detectable marker or conjugated to a second molecule, such as a cytotoxic agent, and used for targeting the second molecule to a PROST 03 positive cell (Vitetta, E.S. et al., *Immunotoxin Therapy*, in DeVita, Jr, V.T. et al., eds, *Cancer: Principles and Practice of Oncology*, 4th ed., J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 2624-2636, 1993). Examples of cytotoxic agents include, but are not limited to ricin, doxorubicin, daunorubicin, taxol, etidurid bromide, mitomycin, etoposide, teniposide, vincristine, vinblastine, colchicine, dihydroxy anthracin dione, actinomycin D, diphtheria toxin, *Pseudomonas* exotoxin (PE) A, PE40, abrin, and glucocorticoid and other chemotherapeutic agents, as well as radioisotopes. Suitable detectable markers include, but are not limited to, a radioisotope, a fluorescent compound, a bioluminescent compound, chemiluminescent compound, a metal chelator or an enzyme. Suitable radioisotopes include the following: Antimony-124, Antimony-125, Arsenic-74, Barium-103, Barium-140, Beryllium-7, Bismuth-206, Bismuth-207, Cadmium-109, Cadmium-115m, Calcium-45, Cerium-139, Cerium-141, Cerium-144, Cesium-137, Chromium-51, Cobalt-56, Cobalt-57, Cobalt-58, Cobalt-60, Cobalt-64, Erbium-169, Europium-152, Gadolinium-153, Gold-195, Gold-199, Hafnium-175, Hafnium-181, Indium-111, Iodine-123, Iodine-131, Iridium-192, Iron-55, Iron-59, Krypton-85, Lead-210, Manganese-54, Mercury-197, Mercury-203, Molybdenum-99, Neodymium-147, Neptunium-237, Nickel-63, Niobium-95, Osmium-185+191, Palladium-103, Platinum-195m, Praseodymium-143, Promethium-147, Protactinium-233, Radium-226, Rhenium-186, Rubidium-86, Ruthenium-103, Ruthenium-106, Scandium-44, Scandium-46, Selenium-75, Silver-110m, Silver-111, Sodium-22, Strontium-85, Strontium-

89, Strontium-90, Sulfur-35, Tantalum-182, Technetium-99m, Tellurium-125, Tellurium-132, Thallium-204, Thorium-228, Throium-232, Thallium-170, Tin-113, Titanium-44, Tungsten-185, Vanadium-48, Vanadium-49, Ytterbium-169, Yttrium-88, Yttrium-90, Yttrium-91, Zinc-65, and Zirconium-95.

5 Immunotherapy for Prostate Cancer

The invention provides various immunotherapeutic methods for treating prostate cancer, including antibody therapy, *in vivo* vaccines, and *ex vivo* immunotherapy approaches. In one approach, the invention provides PROST 03 antibodies which may be used systemically to treat prostate cancer. For example, unconjugated PROST 03 antibodies may be introduced into a patient such that the
10 antibody binds to PROST 03 on, in or associated with prostate cancer cells and mediates the destruction of the cells, and the tumor, by mechanisms which may include complement-mediated cytotoxicity, antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity, altering the physiologic function of PROST 03, and/or the inhibition of ligand binding or signal transduction pathways. PROST 03 antibodies conjugated to toxic agents such as ricin or radioisotopes may also be used therapeutically to deliver the toxic agent directly to PROST 03-bearing prostate tumor cells (either on the surface or through internalization of the conjugated antibodies) and thereby destroy the tumor cells.

Prostate cancer immunotherapy using PROST 03 antibodies may follow the teachings generated from various approaches which have been successfully employed with respect to other types of cancer, including but not limited to colon cancer (Arlen et al., *Crit. Rev. Immunol.* 18: 133-138, 1998), multiple myeloma (Ozaki et al., *Blood* 90: 3179-3186, 1997; Tsunenari et al., *Blood* 90: 2437-2444, 1997), gastric cancer (Kasprzyk et al., *Cancer Res.* 52: 2771-2776, 1992), B-cell lymphoma (Funakoshi et al., *Immunother. Emphasis Tumor Immunol.* 19: 93-101, 1996), leukemia (Zhong et al., *Leuk. Res.* 20: 581-589, 1996), colorectal cancer (Moun et al., *Cancer Res.* 54: 6160-6166, 1994; Velders et al., *Cancer Res.* 55:4398-4403, 1995), and breast cancer (Shepard et al., *J. Clin. Immunol.* 11: 117-127, 25 1991).

The invention further provides vaccines formulated to contain a PROST 03 polypeptide or fragment thereof. The use of a tumor antigen in a vaccine for generating humoral and cell-mediated immunity for use in anti-cancer therapy is well known in the art and has been employed in prostate cancer using human PSMA and rodent PAP immunogens (Hodge et al., *Int. J. Cancer* 63: 231-237, 30 1995; Fong et al., *J. Immunol.* 159: 3113-3117, 1997). Such methods can be readily practiced by employing a PROST 03 polypeptide, or fragment thereof, or a PROST 03-encoding nucleic acid molecule and recombinant vectors capable of expressing and appropriately presenting the PROST 03 immunogen.

For example, viral gene delivery systems may be used to deliver a PROST 03-encoding
35 nucleic acid molecule. Various viral gene delivery systems which can be used in the practice of this aspect of the invention include, but are not limited to, vaccinia, fowlpox, canarypox, adenovirus, influenza, poliovirus, adeno-associated virus, lentivirus, and Sindbis virus (Restifo, in *Curr. Opin. Immunol.* 8: 658-663, 1996). Non-viral delivery systems may also be employed by using naked DNA

encoding a PROST 03 polypeptide or fragment thereof introduced into the patient (i.e., intramuscularly) to induce an immune response (see U.S. Patent No. 6,214,804 which is incorporated in full by reference). In one embodiment, the full-length human *prost 03* cDNA may be employed. In another embodiment, human *prost 03* cDNA fragments may be employed. In another embodiment, *prost 03* nucleic acid molecules encoding specific T lymphocyte (CTL) epitopes may be employed. CTL epitopes can be determined using specific algorithms (e.g., Epimer, Brown University) to identify peptides within a PROST 03 polypeptide which are capable of optimally binding to specified HLA alleles.

Various *ex vivo* strategies may also be employed. One approach involves the use of dendritic cells to present a PROST 03 polypeptide as antigen to a patient's immune system. Dendritic cells express MHC class I and II, B7 costimulator, and IL-12, and are thus highly specialized antigen presenting cells. In prostate cancer, autologous dendritic cells pulsed with peptides of the prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA) are being used in a Phase I clinical trial to stimulate prostate cancer patients' immune systems (Tjoa et al., *Prostate* 28: 65-69, 1996; Murphy et al., *Prostate* 29: 371-380, 1996). Dendritic cells can be used to present PROST 03 polypeptides to T cells in the context of MHC class I and II molecules. In one embodiment, autologous dendritic cells are pulsed with PROST 03 polypeptides capable of binding to MHC molecules. In another embodiment, dendritic cells are pulsed with the complete PROST 03 polypeptide. Yet another embodiment involves engineering the overexpression of the *prost 03* gene in dendritic cells using various implementing vectors known in the art, such as adenovirus (Arthur et al., *Cancer Gene Ther.* 4: 17-25, 1997), retrovirus (Henderson et al., *Cancer Res.* 56: 3763-3770, 1996), lentivirus, adeno-associated virus, DNA transfection (Ribas et al., *Cancer Res.* 57: 2865-2869, 1997), and tumor-derived RNA transfection (Ashley et al., *J. Exp. Med.* 186: 1177-1182, 1997).

Anti-idiotypic anti-PROST 03 antibodies can also be used in anti-cancer therapy as a vaccine for inducing an immune response to cells expressing a PROST 03 polypeptide. Specifically, the generation of anti-idiotypic antibodies is well known in the art and can be readily adapted to generate anti-idiotypic anti-PROST 03 antibodies that mimic an epitope on a PROST 03 polypeptide (see, for example, Wagner et al., *Hybridoma* 16: 33-40, 1997; Foon et al., *J. Clin. Invest.* 96: 334-342, 1995; Herlyn et al., *Cancer Immunol Immunother* 43: 65-76, 1996). Such an anti-idiotypic antibody can be used in anti-idiotypic therapy as presently practiced with other anti-idiotypic antibodies directed against tumor antigens.

Genetic immunization methods may be employed to generate prophylactic or therapeutic humoral and cellular immune responses directed against cancer cells expressing PROST 03. Using the PROST 03-encoding DNA molecules described herein, constructs comprising DNA encoding a PROST 03 polypeptide/immunogen and appropriate regulatory sequences may be injected directly into muscle or skin of an individual, such that the cells of the muscle or skin take up the construct and express the encoded PROST 03 polypeptide/immunogen. The PROST 03 polypeptide/immunogen may be expressed as a cell surface polypeptide or be secreted. Expression of the PROST 03 polypeptide/immunogen results in the generation of prophylactic or therapeutic humoral and cellular

immunity against prostate cancer. Various prophylactic and therapeutic genetic immunization techniques known in the art may be used (for a review, see information and references published at internet address www.genweb.com).

Anti-sense oligonucleotides, antisense vectors, and ribozymes

Anti-sense polynucleotides complementary to *prost 03* may be prepared synthetically. Such oligonucleotides may be delivered into cells with or without lipids that may assist uptake of the anti-sense oligonucleotides into cells.

Alternatively, expression vectors derived from retroviruses, adenovirus, herpes or vaccinia viruses, or from various bacterial plasmids, may also be used for construction and delivery of recombinant vectors which will express anti-sense *prost 03*. See, for example, the techniques described in Sambrook et al. (*supra*) and Ausubel et al. (*supra*).

The polynucleotides comprising the full length cDNA sequence and/or its regulatory elements enable researchers to use *prost 03* polynucleotides as an investigative tool in sense strands (Youssoufian and Lodish, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 13:98-104, 1993) or antisense strands (Eguchi, et al., *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 60:631-652, 1991) for the regulation of gene function. Such technology is now well known in the art, and sense or antisense oligomers, or larger fragments, can be designed from various locations along the coding or control regions.

Genes encoding PROST 03 can be turned off by transfecting a cell or tissue with expression vectors which express high levels of a desired *prost 03* polynucleotide fragment. Such constructs can flood cells with untranslatable sense or antisense sequences. Even in the absence of integration into the DNA, such vectors may continue to transcribe RNA molecules until all copies are disabled by endogenous nucleases. Transient expression may last for a month or more with a non-replicating vector and even longer if appropriate replication elements are part of the vector system.

As mentioned above, modification of gene expression can be obtained by designing antisense molecules, DNA or RNA, to control regions of *prost 03*, i.e., the promoters, enhancers, and introns. Oligonucleotides derived from the transcription initiation site, e.g. between -10 and +10 regions of the leader sequence, are preferred. The antisense molecules may also be designed to block translation of mRNA by preventing the transcript from binding to ribosomes. Similarly, inhibition can be achieved using "triple helix" base-pairing methodology. Triple helix pairing compromises the ability of the double helix to open sufficiently for the binding of polymerases, transcription factors, or regulatory molecules. Recent therapeutic advances using triplex DNA were reviewed by Gee, J.E. et al. (In Huber and Car, *Molecular and Immunologic Approaches*, Futura Publishing Co., Mt. Kisco, N.Y., 1994).

Ribozymes are enzymatic RNA molecules capable of catalyzing the specific cleavage of RNA (U.S. Patent No. 4,987,071; WO 93/23057). The mechanism of ribozyme action involves sequence-specific hybridization of the ribozyme molecule to complementary target RNA, followed by endonucleolytic cleavage. Within the scope of the invention are engineered hammerhead motif ribozyme molecules that can specifically and efficiently catalyze endonucleolytic cleavage of RNA encoding PROST 03. Specific

ribozyme cleavage sites within any potential RNA target are initially identified by scanning the target molecule for ribozyme cleavage sites which include the following sequences, GUA, GUU and GUC. Once identified, short RNA sequences of between 15 and 20 ribonucleotides corresponding to the region of the target gene containing the cleavage site may be evaluated for secondary structural features which may render the oligonucleotide inoperable. The suitability of candidate targets may also be evaluated by testing accessibility to hybridization with complementary oligonucleotides using ribonuclease protection assays (Irie et al., *Advance. Pharmacol.* 40:207-257, 1997).

Antisense molecules and ribozymes of the invention may be prepared by any method known in the art for the synthesis of RNA molecules. These include techniques for chemically synthesizing oligonucleotides such as solid phase phosphoramidite chemical synthesis. Alternatively, RNA molecules may be generated by *in vitro* and *in vivo* transcription or by DNA sequences encoding PROST 03. Such DNA sequences may be incorporated into a wide variety of vectors with suitable RNA polymerase promoters such as T7 or SP6. Alternatively, antisense cDNA constructs that synthesize antisense RNA constitutively or inducibly can be introduced into cell lines, cells or tissues.

RNA molecules may be modified to increase intracellular stability and half-life. Possible modifications include, but are not limited to, the addition of flanking sequences at the 5' and/or 3' ends of the molecules or the use of phosphorothioate or 2' O-methyl rather than phosphodiesterase linkages within the backbone of the molecule. Increased stability can also be achieved by the inclusion of nontraditional bases such as inosine and queosine as well as acetyl-, methyl-, thio- and similarly modified forms of adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymine, and uridine which are not as easily recognized by endogenous endonucleases.

Methods for introducing antisense vectors into cells or tissues include those methods discussed *infra* and which are equally suitable for *in vivo*, *in vitro* and *ex vivo* therapy. For *ex vivo* therapy, antisense vectors are introduced into cells taken from the patient and clonally propagated for autologous transplant back into that same patient as presented in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,399,493 and 5,437,994, disclosed herein by reference. Delivery by transfection and by liposome or other lipid based or non-lipid based agents are well known in the art.

Assays for Identifying Agents Binding to PROST 03

The present invention also relates to assays and methods which can be used to identify agents that bind to PROST 03. Specifically, agents that bind to PROST 03 can be identified by the ability of the PROST 03 ligand or other agent or constituent to bind to PROST 03 and/or the ability to inhibit/stimulate PROST 03 activity.

Alternatively, agents that bind to a PROST 03 polypeptide can be identified using a yeast two-hybrid system or a binding capture assay. In the yeast two hybrid system, an expression unit encoding a fusion protein made up of one subunit of a two subunit transcription factor and the PROST 03 polypeptide is introduced and expressed in a yeast cell. The cell is further modified to contain (1) an expression unit encoding a detectable marker whose expression requires the two subunit transcription

factor for expression and (2) an expression unit that encodes a fusion protein made up of the second subunit of the transcription factor and a cloned segment of DNA. If the cloned segment of DNA encodes a protein that binds to the PROST 03 polypeptide, the expression results in the interaction of PROST 03 and the encoded protein. This brings the two subunits of the transcription factor into binding proximity, allowing reconstitution of the transcription factor. This results in expression of the detectable marker. The yeast two hybrid system is particularly useful in screening a library of cDNA encoding segments for cellular binding partners of PROST 03.

PROST 03 polypeptides which may be used in the above assays include, but are not limited to, an isolated PROST 03 polypeptide, a fragment of a PROST 03 polypeptide, a cell that has been altered to express a PROST 03 polypeptide, or a fraction of a cell that has been altered to express a PROST 03 polypeptide. Further, the PROST 03 polypeptide can be the entire polypeptide or a defined fragment of the PROST 03 polypeptide. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that so long as the PROST 03 polypeptide can be assayed for agent binding, e.g. by a shift in molecular weight or activity, the present assay can be used.

The method used to identify whether an agent/cellular component binds to a PROST 03 polypeptide will be based primarily on the nature of the PROST 03 polypeptide used. For example, a gel retardation assay can be used to determine whether an agent binds to PROST 03 or a fragment thereof. Alternatively, immunodetection and biochip technologies can be adopted for use with the PROST 03 polypeptide. A skilled artisan can readily employ numerous art-known techniques for determining whether a particular agent bind to a PROST 03 polypeptide.

Agents and cellular components can be further tested for the ability to modulate the activity of a PROST 03 polypeptide using a cell-free assay system or a cellular assay system. As the activities of the PROST 03 polypeptide become more defined, functional assays based on the identified activity can be employed.

As used herein, an agent is said to antagonize PROST 03 activity when the agent reduces PROST 03 activity. The preferred antagonist will selectively antagonize PROST 03, not affecting any other cellular proteins. Further, the preferred antagonist will reduce PROST 03 activity by more than 50%, more preferably by more than 90%, most preferably eliminating all PROST 03 activity.

Agents that are assayed in the above method can be randomly selected or rationally selected or designed. As used herein, an agent is said to be randomly selected when the agent is chosen randomly without considering the specific sequences of the PROST 03 polypeptide. An example of randomly selected agents is the use of a chemical library or a peptide combinatorial library, or growth broth of an organism or plant extract.

As used herein, an agent is said to be rationally selected or designed when the agent is chosen on a nonrandom basis that takes into account the sequence of the target site an/or its conformation in connection with the agent's action. Agents can be rationally selected or rationally designed by utilizing the peptide sequences that make up the PROST 03 polypeptide. For example, a rationally selected peptide agent can be a peptide whose amino acid sequence is identical to a fragment of a PROST 03

polypeptide.

The agents tested in the methods of the present invention can be, as examples, peptides, antibodies, oligonucleotides, small molecules and vitamin derivatives, as well as carbohydrates. A skilled artisan can readily recognize that there is no limit as to the structural nature of the agents used in the present screening method. One class of agents of the present invention are peptide agents whose amino acid sequences are chosen based on the amino acid sequence of the PROST 03 polypeptide.

Peptide agents can be prepared using standard solid phase (or solution phase) peptide synthesis methods, as is known in the art. In addition, the DNA encoding these peptides may be synthesized using commercially available oligonucleotide synthesis instrumentation and produced recombinantly using standard recombinant production systems. The production using solid phase peptide synthesis is necessitated if no-gene-encoded amino acids are to be included.

Another class of agent of the present invention are antibodies immunoreactive with critical positions of the PROST 03 polypeptide. As described above, antibodies are obtained by immunization of suitable mammalian subjects with peptides, containing as antigenic regions, those portions of the PROST 03 polypeptide intended to be targeted by the antibodies. Such agents can be used in competitive binding studies to identify second generation inhibitory agents as well as to block PROST 03 activity.

The cellular extracts tested in the methods of the present invention can be, as examples, aqueous extracts of cells or tissues, organic extracts of cells or tissues or partially purified cellular fractions. A skilled artisan can readily recognize that there is no limit as to the source of the cellular extract used in the screening method of the present invention.

Agents that bind a PROST 03 polypeptide, such as a PROST 03 antibody, can be used to modulate the activity of PROST 03, to target anticancer agents to appropriate mammalian cells, or to identify agents that block the interaction with PROST 03. Cells expressing PROST 03 can be targeted or identified by using an agent that binds to PROST 03.

How the PROST 03 binding agents will be used depends on the nature of the PROST 03 binding agent. For example, a PROST 03 binding agent can be used to: deliver conjugated toxins, such as diphtheria toxin, cholera toxin, ricin or pseudomonas exotoxin, to a PROST 03 expressing cell; modulate PROST 03 activity; to directly kill a PROST 03 expressing cell; or in screens to identify competitive binding agents. For example, a PROST 03 inhibitory agent can be used to directly inhibit the growth of PROST 03 expressing cells whereas a PROST 03 binding agent can be used as a diagnostic agent.

Pharmaceutical Compositions and Administration

The present invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions which may comprise *prost 03* polynucleotides, PROST 03 polypeptides, antibodies, agonists, antagonists, or inhibitors, alone or in combination with at least one other agent, such as stabilizing compound, which may be administered in any sterile, biocompatible pharmaceutical carrier, including, but not limited to, saline, buffered saline,

dextrose, and water. Any of these molecules can be administered to a patient alone, or in combination with other agents, drugs or hormones, in pharmaceutical compositions where it is mixed with excipient(s) or pharmaceutically acceptable carriers. In one embodiment of the present invention, the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is pharmaceutically inert.

5 The present invention also relates to the administration of pharmaceutical compositions. Such administration is accomplished orally or parenterally. Methods of parenteral delivery include topical, intra-arterial (directly to the tumor), intramuscular, subcutaneous, intramedullary, intrathecal, intraventricular, intravenous, intraperitoneal, or intranasal administration. In addition to the active ingredients, these pharmaceutical compositions may contain suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carriers comprising
10 excipients and auxiliaries which facilitate processing of the active compounds into preparations which can be used pharmaceutically. Further details on techniques for formulation and administration may be found in the latest edition of *Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences* (Ed. Maack Publishing Co, Easton, Pa.).

Pharmaceutical compositions for oral administration can be formulated using pharmaceutically acceptable carriers well known in the art in dosages suitable for oral administration. Such carriers enable
15 the pharmaceutical compositions to be formulated as tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries, suspensions and the like, for ingestion by the patient.

Pharmaceutical preparations for oral use can be obtained through combination of active compounds with solid excipient, optionally grinding a resulting mixture, and processing the mixture of granules, after adding suitable auxiliaries, if desired, to obtain tablets or dragee cores. Suitable excipients
20 are carbohydrate or protein fillers such as sugars, including lactose, sucrose, mannitol, or sorbitol; starch from corn, wheat, rice, potato, or other plants; cellulose such as methyl, cellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, or sodium carboxymethylcellulose; and gums including arabic and tragacanth; and proteins such as gelatin and collagen. If desired, disintegrating or solubilizing agents may be added, such as the cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, alginic acid, or a salt thereof, such as
25 sodium alginate.

Dragee cores are provided with suitable coatings such as concentrated sugar solutions, which may also contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinylpyrrolidone, carbopol gel, polyethylene glycol and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions, and suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures. Dyestuffs or pigments may be added to the tablets or dragee coatings for product identification or to characterize the quantity of active
30 compound, i.e. dosage.

Pharmaceutical preparations which can be used orally include push-fit capsules made of gelatin, as well as soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a coating such as glycerol or sorbitol. Push-fit capsules can contain active ingredients mixed with a filler or binders such as lactose or starches, lubricants such as talc or magnesium stearate, and optionally, stabilizers. In soft capsules, the active
35 compounds may be dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, liquid paraffin, or liquid polyethylene glycol with or without stabilizers.

Pharmaceutical formulations for parenteral administration include aqueous solutions of active compounds. For injection, the pharmaceutical compositions of the invention may be formulated in

aqueous solutions, preferably in physiologically compatible buffers such as Hank's solution, Ringer's solution, or physiologically buffered saline. Aqueous injection suspensions may contain substances which increase viscosity of the suspension, such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, or dextran. Additionally, suspensions of the active compounds may be prepared as appropriate oily injection suspensions. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils such as sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, such as ethyl oleate or triglycerides, or liposomes. Optionally, the suspension may also contain suitable stabilizers or agents which increase the solubility of the compounds to allow for the preparation of highly concentrated solutions.

For topical or nasal administration, penetrants appropriate to the particular barrier to be permeated are used in the formulation. Such penetrants are generally known in the art.

Kits

The invention further relates to pharmaceutical packs and kits comprising one or more containers filled with one or more of the ingredients of the aforementioned compositions of the invention. Associated with such container(s) can be a notice in the form prescribed by a governmental agency regulating the manufacture, use or sale of pharmaceuticals or biological products, reflecting approval by the agency of the manufacture, use or sale of the product for human administration.

Manufacture and Storage.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may be manufactured in a manner that is known in the art, e.g., by means of conventional mixing, dissolving, granulating, dragee-making, levigating, emulsifying, encapsulating, entrapping or lyophilizing processes.

The pharmaceutical composition may be provided as a salt and can be formed with many acids, including but not limited to hydrochloric, sulfuric, acetic, lactic, tartaric, malic, succinic, etc. Salts tend to be more soluble in aqueous or other protonic solvents than are the corresponding free base forms. In other cases, the preferred preparation may be a lyophilized powder in 1mM-50 mM histidine, 0.1%-2% sucrose, 2%-7% mannitol at a pH range of 4.5 to 5.5 that is combined with buffer prior to use.

After pharmaceutical compositions comprising a compound of the invention formulated in an acceptable carrier have been prepared, they can be placed in an appropriate container and labeled for treatment of an indicated condition. For administration of PROST 03, such labeling would include amount, frequency and method of administration.

Therapeutically Effective Dose.

Pharmaceutical compositions suitable for use in the present invention include compositions wherein the active ingredients are contained in an effective amount to achieve the intended purpose, i.e. treatment of a particular disease state characterized by PROST 03 expression. The determination of an effective dose is well within the capability of those skilled in the art.

For any compound, the therapeutically effective dose can be estimated initially either in cell culture assays, e.g., neoplastic cells, or in animal models, usually mice, rabbits, dogs, or pigs. The animal model is also used to achieve a desirable concentration range and route of administration. Such information can then be used to determine useful doses and routes for administration in humans.

A therapeutically effective dose refers to that amount of protein or its antibodies, antagonists, or inhibitors which ameliorate the symptoms or condition. Therapeutic efficacy and toxicity of such compounds can be determined by standard pharmaceutical procedures in cell cultures or experimental animals, e.g., ED_{50} (the dose therapeutically effective in 50% of the population) and LD_{50} (the dose lethal to 50% of the population). The dose ratio between therapeutic and toxic effects is the therapeutic index, and it can be expressed as the ratio, ED_{50}/LD_{50} . Pharmaceutical compositions which exhibit large therapeutic indices are preferred. The data obtained from cell culture assays and animal studies is used in formulating a range of dosage for human use. The dosage of such compounds lies preferably within a range of circulating concentrations what include the ED_{50} with little or no toxicity. The dosage varies within this range depending upon the dosage form employed, sensitivity of the patient, and the route of administration.

The exact dosage is chosen by the individual physician in view of the patient to be treated. Dosage and administration are adjusted to provide sufficient levels of the active moiety or to maintain the desired effect. Additional factors that may be taken into account include the severity of the disease state, eg, tumor size and location; age, weight and gender of the patient; diet, time and frequency of administration, drug combination(s), reaction sensitivities, and tolerance/response to therapy. Long acting pharmaceutical compositions might be administered every 3 to 4 days, every week, or once every two weeks depending on half-life and clearance rate of the particular formulation.

Normal dosage amounts may vary from 0.1 to 100,000 micrograms, up to a total dose of about 1 g, depending upon the route of administration. Guidance as to particular dosages and methods of delivery is provided in the literature. See U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,657,760; 5,206,344; or 5,225,212. Those skilled in the art will employ different formulations for polynucleotides than for proteins or their inhibitors. Similarly, delivery of polynucleotides or polypeptides will be specific to particular cells, conditions, locations, etc.

EXAMPLES

The present invention is further described by the following examples. The examples are provided solely to illustrate the invention by reference to specific embodiments. These exemplifications, while illustrating certain specific aspects of the invention, do not portray the limitations or circumscribe the scope of the disclosed invention.

All examples were carried out using standard techniques, which are well known and routine to those of skill in the art, except where otherwise described in detail. Routine molecular biology

techniques of the following examples can be carried out as described in standard laboratory manuals, such as Sambrook et al., *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd Ed.; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989.

Example 1: Cloning of additional 5' sequence for PROST 03

Mining of Incyte's LifeSeq database led to the identification of *prost 03* as a gene expressed in prostate. The *prost 03* clones from the database were assembled into a contiguous sequence that was determined to contain a partial coding sequence. The contiguous sequence was missing the 5' end of the coding region.

Additional 5' sequence for PROST 03 was cloned from a human prostate cDNA library (Human Prostate 5'-Stretch cDNA library; Clontech) using PCR. Primary amplifications were performed using lambdaGT11 forward or reverse primers with the *prost 03* specific primer *Prost 03-1*. Nested PCR reactions were performed using lambdaGT11 reverse primer with *Prost 03-2*. Amplified products from both primary and nested PCR reactions were cloned using a TA cloning kit (Invitrogen). Individual clones were re-tested by PCR and sequenced.

New 5' *prost 03* sequence was obtained from two clones and used in a BLAST search of the LifeSeq database. A new contiguous sequence was assembled; this sequence was predicted to contain the complete coding region for PROST 03 protein. A full-length clone (#3352331) was obtained from Incyte and the sequence was confirmed.

Primer Sequences:

LambdaGT11-forward primer: 5'- GGT GGC GAC GAC TCC TGG AGC C -3' (SEQ ID NO: 3)

LambdaGT11-reverse primer: 5'- GAC ACC AGA CCA ACT GGT AAT G -3' (SEQ ID NO: 4)

PROST 03-1: 5'- CAC CTC CAG TGT CCC CTC GGT ATT TGG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 5)

PROST 03-2: 5'- CAC ACT GTG GGA CAG GCA TGT GGC ACC -3' (SEQ ID NO: 6)

The full-length polypeptide sequence was used to search the SWISS-PROT and SPTREMBL databases using the FastA program. The results of this search indicated that the PROST 03 sequence shows similarity to a set of transporters that has been previously identified in plants, in particular to a set of sucrose/proton transporters.

Example 2: Transient expression of PROST 03 in COS cells

The cDNA encoding PROST 03 was subcloned into the mammalian expression vector pCIneo (Promega) using a three-part ligation strategy. pCIneo was digested with EcoRI and SmaI and then treated with calf intestine alkaline phosphatase. The 5' portion of the *prost 03* coding region was

amplified by PCR using Incyte clone #3352331 as template. The 5' primer was designed to contain a consensus Kozak sequence. The PCR fragment was gel purified and then digested with EcoRI and SphI. The 3' portion of the *prost 03* coding region was obtained by digestion of Incyte clone #3352331 with SphI and BsrBI, followed by gel purification of the 916 base pair fragment. The *prost 03* DNA fragments were then ligated with the pCIneo vector and transformed into TOP10 cells (Invitrogen) to obtain clones.

The resulting expression plasmid, CIPr3, was then transiently transfected into COS cells using Lipofectamine-Plus (Life Technologies). Whole cell lysates were demonstrated to contain PROST 03 protein when analyzed by Western blot.

5' PCR primer: 5'- ACT GAA TTC GCC ACC ATG GTC CAG AGG CTG TGG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 7)

3' PCR primer: 5'- CCA TCC AGC TGC ACA GCT CAG -3' (SEQ ID NO: 8)

Example 3: *Prost 03* mRNA Expression

The expression of *prost 03* mRNA in a variety of samples from normal and tumor tissues and in cell lines, was determined by semi-quantitative PCR using a Taqman assay, (Perkin-Elmer). Prostate normal, benign and tumor tissue samples that had been graded according to a modified Gleason grading system were obtained from the Urology Department at Stanford University School of Medicine. RNA was isolated from these by standard procedures. RNA from other tumor and normal tissues was purchased from commercial sources, including Clontech, and Biochain. Prostate tumor cell lines, (PC-3, LNCaP and DU145), were obtained from American Type Culture Collection and propagated in culture by standard methods using serum containing medium. Xenograft tumors derived from these cell lines were established in nude mice and harvested from the mice approximately 4-6 weeks after implantation. RNA was isolated from the tumors by standard procedures.

Taqman based PCR analysis was performed using the following sets of primers and probes:

Set 1: primers CCTCCAGGCTCTGTCTGAT (SEQ ID NO: 9) and ATGGCGCACTGCAGGAAC (SEQ ID NO: 10) and probe 6-FAM-TGCAGGCGTTCCGATGGGC-Tamra (SEQ ID NO: 11);
Set 2: primers ATTCGGCACTCGAGCAGTCTA (SEQ ID NO: 12) and TGAGGGCGGCTGAAGCT (SEQ ID NO: 13) and probe 6-FAM-CAGGCATGTGGCACCGGCA-Tamra (SEQ ID NO: 14); and
Set 3: primers CAGCCAGTCTGTCACTGCCTAT (SEQ ID NO: 15) and TCGCTCTGTCAAATACTACCTGTGTA (SEQ ID NO: 16) and probe 6-FAM-CCAGCCTGCGCAGACACCA-Tamra (SEQ ID NO: 17).

These primers and probe were designed using Perkin Elmer's Primer Express software and were synthesized by Synthetic Genetics. PCR reactions were carried out for 30-40 cycles and quantified using prostate RNA to generate a standard curve for relative comparison. This analysis demonstrated that *prost 03* mRNA was highly prostate tissue restricted

Example 4: Antibody Generation

Rabbit polyclonal antisera were raised against eight synthetic polypeptide sequences derived from the PROST 03 protein sequence. These sequences were selected because of their predicted extracellular orientation, in order to generate antisera that are more likely to recognize surface epitopes. Cysteine residues were replaced with aminobutyric acid to aid synthesis. The specific amino acid sequences, positions on the PROST 03 protein and designations for the peptides are listed below.

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Amino Acid Sequence</i>
Pep1	39 – 52	VPPLLLEVGVEEKF (SEQ ID NO: 18)
Pep4	292 – 309	YTDFVGEGLYQGVPRAEP (SEQ ID NO: 19)
Pep5	308 – 323	EPGTEARRHYDEGVARM (SEQ ID NO: 20)
Pep7	406 – 431	EKQVFLPKYRGDTGGASSEDLSMTSF (SEQ ID NO: 21)
Pep8	225 – 240	PTEPAEGLSAPSLSPH (SEQ ID NO: 26)
Pep9	109 – 121	LAGLLCPDPRPLE (SEQ ID NO: 22)
Pep10	181 – 197	IDWDTALAPYLGTQEE (SEQ ID NO: 23)
Pep11	544 – 553	DKSDLAKYSA (SEQ ID NO: 24)
Pep 4+5	294 – 322	DFVGEGLYQGVPRAEGTEARRHYDEGVR (SEQ ID NO: 25)

Peptides were covalently coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH), via an additional amino- or carboxyl- terminal cysteine, for use as immunogen. Similarly, a bovine serum albumin (BSA) conjugate was prepared for the analysis of antisera titers via ELISA.

Two animals were immunized with each peptide. Initial immunizations were performed in Freund's complete adjuvant (0.5 mg/animal), followed by boosts at three week intervals with 0.25 mg/animal in Freund's incomplete adjuvant applied intramuscularly. Periodic test bleeds were taken and antibody titers against the specific BSA- peptide conjugate were measured by ELISA and compared with preimmune sera.

Antisera were tested for PROST 03 specificity via ELISA and Western blotting on PROST 03 transiently expressed in COS cells. Antisera against Peptides 7, 8, 10, 11 and 4+5 recognized PROST 03. PROST 03-specific antisera were further tested on lysates prepared from: LNCAP tumors, LNCAP cells, PC3 tumors, PC3 cells and several clinical samples of human prostate tumors. Binding specificity was verified by binding in the presence of the homologous and heterologous peptides.

Human monoclonal antibodies against PROST 03 were generated by immunizing transgenic

mice with PROST 03 peptides. Splenocytes of these animals were fused with myeloma cells to produce hybridoma cells. The resulting hybridomas were screened by ELISA for those producing antibodies directed against PROST 03 peptides and protein.

Example 5: Immunohistochemical staining of PROST 03 Expression

The expression of PROST 03 protein was determined by LifeSpan Biosciences, Inc. in a variety of human normal and tumor tissues, including breast, colon, lung, brain and prostate. In addition, prostatic carcinoma metastatic to bone and lymph node were chosen to determine PROST 03 protein expression. Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissues were incubated with anti-PROST 03 antibody as a primary antibody and the principal detection system consisted of a Vector ABC-AP kit (AK5001) with a Vector Red substrate kit, which was used to produce a fuschia-colored red deposit (SK-5100). Tissues were also stained with a positive control antibody (CD31) to ensure that tissue antigens were preserved and accessible for immunohistochemical analysis. Only tissues that stained positive for CD31 were chosen for the remainder of this study. Negative controls consisted of performing the entire immunohistochemistry procedure on adjacent sections in the absence of primary antibody. PROST 03 expression was seen in normal prostate, prostate carcinoma and metastasis to bone and lymph node. The majority of carcinomas showed positive staining with anti-PROST 03 antibody with variable levels of protein expression in the carcinoma.

* * * * *

All publications and patents mentioned in the above specification are herein incorporated by reference. While the present invention has been described with reference to the specific embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation, material, composition of matter, process, process step or steps, to the objective, spirit and scope of the present invention. All such modifications are intended to be within the scope of the claims appended hereto.